2018 ANNUAL REPORT
I.S.O. CLASS 2
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Honorable Mayor and Board of Council  
City of Fort Thomas  
130 North Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

April 15, 2019

In 2018, your Fire Department continued to provide excellent emergency services to our community. The numbers of runs we handled slightly decreased from a total of 1,830 in 2017 to a total of 1,773 in 2018. The nature of the runs will be broken down as part of this report.

In addition to our traditional emergency Fire/EMS and Fire Prevention – Code Enforcement responsibilities, we have again endeavored to provide several value-added programs to our community. This report will identify those programs and explain their values.

Your department continues to take an active role in regional, state and national organizations dedicated to the delivery of quality services in public safety, the fire service, emergency medical services and emergency preparedness. We have continued to seek out and apply for grants to augment the efforts of the city to fund our activities and we have been successful in those efforts.

Finally, this report will no doubt identify those areas in which we need to improve our performance to better serve our customers, the citizens of Fort Thomas, as we look forward to the future.

We hope that this report explains in detail the efforts of our personnel over the past year. We would also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Mayor, Board of Council and Administration for their continued high level of support for the Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Mark K. Bailey, Chief
FROM THE CHIEF'S PERSPECTIVE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2018 was again a very busy year for the Fort Thomas Fire Department. The following is a breakdown month-by-month of our major activities:

January – 181 total responses, 22 drills and 162 staff hours, major training-Fire - annual Hazardous Materials Refresher and EMS - Employee Assistance Program presented by St. Elizabeth Hospital.

February – 133 total responses, 31 drills and 577 staff hours, major training-Fire - consisted of classes taught by TANK on hazards associated with their buses. The FD also participated with the Campbell County Office of Emergency Management and our schools with National Emergency Preparedness Month.

March – 146 total responses, 35 drills and 360 staff hours, major training- EMS – CC OEM gave the FD and PD a class on TIMS (Traffic Incident Management System).

April – 138 total responses, 31 drills and 211 staff hours, major training-Fire – various Fire Training classes were conducted during the month of April with the primary classes being Hose Testing and Evolutions. The Fire Department again participated in the Prom to Dawn activities at Highlands High School to ensure the safety of the students participating in this overnight activity.

May – 167 total responses, 20 drills and 159 staff hours. The Fire Department assisted with two presentations for the 3rd grade students of Ruth Moyer. Also, a number of our personnel either completed college classes and degrees or began summer classes to work on their respective degrees. Furthermore, EMS Week was May 20th through May 26th. This year’s National theme was EMS Strong – Stronger Together! Also, the FD participated in the Rolling Thunder event to show support of POW’s and MIA’s on May 23rd.

June – 145 total responses, 23 drills and 167 staff hours, major training- Fire – focused on fire hydrant testing throughout the city. We also participated in the Tiny Tots Program through the Recreation Department Summer Program on June 26th.

July – 140 total responses, 24 drills and 286 staff hours, Major assignment for month-Fourth of July Parade and Independence Day Celebration. The FD was again very proud to be a part of the festivities!

August – 140 total responses, 36 drills and 288 staff hours, major training- EMS – Pediatric Head Trauma taught by Tony Kramer, RN, Cinti. State University. Fire – CC OEM Decon Trailer training. We also again participated in the annual Eggs and Education Breakfast for the Fort Thomas City Schools as a table sponsor.

September – 152 total responses, 54 drills and 268 staff hours, major training- EMS- Head, Neck and Spine Injuries presented by Ft Thomas Schools and St. Elizabeth Sports Medicine Departments The Fire department also participated in the Merchants and Music Festival event on September 22nd in Tower Park. Furthermore, the FD named Retired FF/P Ken Clift the department Chaplain in September 2018.
October – **Fire Prevention Month** – 130 total responses, 36 drills and 512 staff hours, major assignment for month-Fire Prevention Public Education (See details under Fire Prevention Section). In October, the FD also participated in the annual Touch A Truck on October 20th and the annual Pumpkin Walk in Tower Park on October 26th. On October 12th, the FD held a community CPR teaching event at the Highlands High School Football game.

**November** – 147 responses, 30 drills and 266 staff hours, major training- Fire –winterizing all fire hydrants in the city.

**December** – 163 responses (our total responses for the year were 1773), 22 drills and 150 staff hours. Training for the year 2018 consisted of 368 drills and 3080 staff hours. The Fire Department also participated in the City Holiday Walk on December 2nd.

As you can see, the year 2018 was a very busy and productive year for the **Fort Thomas Fire Department**.

In closing, the Fort Thomas Fire Department looks forward to 2019 in continuing to provide the utmost in protection and education for the citizens of the City of Fort Thomas.

Thank you Mayor Haas, Board of Council and Administration for all of your constant support.
Ft. Thomas Fire Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Ft. Thomas Fire Department is dedicated in serving the citizens to prevent loss of life, personal injury, and property damage through Emergency Response, Current Departmental Training, Fire Prevention, and Community Education.

The Department will provide Emergency Medical Services at the level of advanced life support towards the health, safety, and well-being of the patient/s.

The Department will provide optimal services in an efficient manner to the needs of our community and recognized by our community and our peers as leaders in the event of an Emergency.

The Department will set examples of professionalism regardless of rank or position and actively participate in community events.

The Department will assist neighboring fire departments through mutual aid agreements to the extent that the City of Ft. Thomas is not left in harms way.
PERSONNEL 2018
Fire Department Officers

Chief Mark K. Bailey
Ft. Thomas Fire Department Organizational Structure

Mark K. Bailey
FIRE CHIEF

SHIFT ONE  
CAPTAIN  
Steve Lumpp  
LIEUTENANT  
Rick Daugherty  
FIREFIGHTERS  
Chris Wulfeck  
Josh Edmondson  
Matt Bryant  
Jeremy Andrasik

SHIFT TWO  
CAPTAIN  
Chris Amon  
LIEUTENANT  
Kasey Carr  
FIREFIGHTERS  
Mike Watson  
Kyle Kaufman  
Mike Strady  
Mike Wright

SHIFT THREE  
CAPTAIN  
Tammy Webster  
LIEUTENANT  
Eric Scherpenberg  
FIREFIGHTERS  
Chris Rust  
Scott Shepherd  
Sam Behrle  
Brandon Fromeyer

Administrative Assistant – Elaine Henderson  
Chaplain – Ken Clift
# FORT THOMAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
## OFFICER/SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNMENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2018

**SHIFT 1**
- **CAPT./P STEVE LUMPP**
  - FIRE TRAINING COORDINATOR, CIS ADMIN., INSPECTIONS COORDINATOR (INC. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES)
- **LT./P RICK DAUGHERTY**
  - INSPECTIONS ACCOUNTABILITY, PHYS. FIT., CPAT, TURNOUT GEAR (PPE) GRANTS MANAGER
- **FF/P CHRIS WULFECK**
  - FIRST AID/CPR PROGRAMS (INC. HMS PROGRAMS), PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P JOSH EDMONDS**
  - HYDRANTS, EXTINGUISHERS, PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P MATT BRYANT**
  - PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P JEREMY ANDRASIK**
  - PRE-PLANS

**SHIFT 2**
- **CAPT./P CHRIS AMON**
  - VEHICLE MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR HOSE, PHYS. FIT., MINOR EQUIPMENT
- **LT./P KASEY CARR**
  - INSPECTIONS PRE-PLANS COORDINATOR
- **FF/P MIKE WATSON**
  - EMS SUPPLIES, PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P KYLE KAUFMAN**
  - SCBA MAINTENANCE, PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P MICHAEL STRADY**
  - PRE PLANS
- **FF/P MIKE WRIGHT**
  - PRE-PLANS

**SHIFT 3**
- **CAPT./P TAMMY WEBSTER**
  - EMS COORDINATOR PHYS. FIT.
- **LT./P ERIC SCHERPENBERG**
  - INSPECTIONS FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER (PUB. ED. POSTER CONTEST), FACILITY COORD./SUPPLIES
- **FF/P CHRIS RUST**
  - SMALL ENGINES/EQUIPMENT, PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P SCOTT SHEPHERD**
  - RADIOS & PAGERS, PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P SAM BEHRLE**
  - PRE-PLANS
- **FF/P BRANDON FROMEYER**
  - CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Elaine Henderson

KEN CLIFT - CHAPLAIN

FF/P MATT STUART - RETIRED AUGUST 2018
GRANT PROCESSES
Lieutenant Rick Daugherty, Grant Coordinator

The fire department continues to aggressively pursue grants for funding and equipment via private foundations as well as the state and federal government. Many of these grants have purchased equipment that is used solely by your fire department. Several of the grants have been for countywide projects and others have been partnerships with other cities/communities. For Fiscal year 2018 the Fire Department submitted an AFG grant for a Diesel Exhaust Capture System. This system will be used in the bay area and connected directly to apparatus to capture all exhaust particulates and dispose of them directly outside. This is to decrease the daily risks of the Fire Department, as well as all staff, to harmful cancer-causing agents omitted from apparatus exhaust. Awards have not given for this grant process as of this time.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<td>Elliptical Machine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Warning Devices</td>
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<td>$1,402,389</td>
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The table shown above represents only the grants that have been awarded to the fire department. The department has submitted numerous other grants that have gone unfunded. In the future the department will continue to apply for available grants, at the state and federal level, as long as funding sources are still available.
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS ACTIVITIES

National

- Fire Department Instructors Conference
- National Fire Protection Association
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters

Statewide

- Kentucky Firefighter's Association – FF/P Scott Shepherd attended the annual conference in Louisville Kentucky.

- Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Bailey is an active member of this organization.

- Kentucky State Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel Standards, and Education (Kentucky Fire Commission) – Chief Bailey and Captain Lumpp maintain a close working relationship with this organization relative to the tracking of fire service training hours for our personnel. Lt. Rick Daugherty is an active member of this Commission on their Board of Directors.

- Emergency Medical Services Educators of Kentucky – Chief Bailey is an active member of this organization.

- Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services – Chief Bailey and Captain Webster maintain a close working relationship with this organization and continue to monitor Kentucky's Administrative Regulations 202 KAR Chapter 7 and Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 311A, covering all aspects of Emergency Medical Service throughout the Commonwealth. Chief Bailey was the first chairman of this Board organized in September 2000.

- Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association – Chief Bailey maintains a close working relationship with this association reference to regulations and legislative issues affecting EMS in the Commonwealth.
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

- **Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy** – Chief Bailey serves as chairman of this organization and assisted in formulating the curriculum for the Paramedicine Associate Degree Program offered through Western Kentucky University and Bowling Green Community College.

- **Kentucky Community and Technical College System** – Chief Bailey continues to serve as an adjunct instructor for the EMS Evaluator Course taught through KCTCS and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services. We currently have 16 Fire Instructors (12 Instructor 1 and 4 Instructor 2) through KCTCS and the Kentucky Fire Commission.

- **Green River/Bryant Stiles Fire Officers School** – Captain Lumpp maintains a close tie with this prestigious school through the Kentucky Firefighters Association.

Regional

- **Northern Kentucky Hazardous Materials Unit** – Agency that provides Hazardous Materials response capability for the Northern Kentucky Region. Chief Bailey was on the steering committee that formulated this unit.

- **Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Unit** – Agency that provides Hazardous Materials response capability for the Greater Cincinnati Region.

- **Tri-State Emergency Association** – Association that acts as a forum for Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management Offices in the region to share information and contacts through quarterly meetings.

- **Cincinnati State Technical and Community College** – Our department serves as a practical training site for both Fire, EMT and Paramedic Interns.

- **Gateway College** - Our department serves as a practical training site for EMT and Paramedic Interns.
PROFESSION AFFILIATIONS ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

• **Northern Kentucky Firefighter's Association** – This is a regional association with Chief Bailey serving on the Radio Committee. Capt. Amon serves on the RIT Committee and the Recruitment/Retention Committee.

• **Northern Kentucky Fire Inspectors Association** – Captain Lumpp, Lieutenants Carr, Daugherty and Scherpenberg serve actively with the association.

• **Northern Kentucky EMS Advisory Committee** – Captain Webster currently serves on the ALS sub-committee.

• **Campbell County Fire Protection Association (formally CCFEA)** – Chief Bailey currently serves as the President of the Association. Captain Amon serves on the Firefighter Safety Committee, FF/P Shepherd on the Radio Committee, FF/P Edmondson on the Training Center Committee, Captain Lumpp on the Training and Schools Committee, and Capt. Tammy Webster co-chairs the EMS Committee.

• **Campbell County Consolidated Dispatch Board** – Responsible for the operation of Public Safety Answering Point for Campbell County 911 Emergency Dispatching. Chief Bailey serves on Board of Directors as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

• **Northern Kentucky Fire Officer Training School** – Captain Lumpp serves on the faculty.

• **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Intl. Airport Disaster Committee** – Chief Bailey serves as the representative for Campbell County Fire Chief's and the Campbell County Consolidated Dispatch Board on this committee.

• **Campbell County Fire Investigative Team** – FF/P Edmondson and Fromeyer serve on this team which investigate fires and their potential causes/origins in Campbell County.
PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Lt. Eric Scherpenberg-Fire Prevention and Public Education Officer

The fire men and women of the Fort Thomas Fire Department are committed keeping our community safe from the perils of fire and other life threatening emergencies. This commitment begins with educating the public on the prevention of fires and basic first aid treatment. 2018 brought exciting changes and challenges to public education in the City of Fort Thomas. Our public education effort was once again organized by Lt. Scherpenberg from Shift 3. This effort encompassed hundreds of staff hours and reached 2,758 children and 1,391 adults for a total of 4,149 citizens. Our efforts support the larger trend of nationally decreasing death and destruction due to fires. This trend can be directly attributed to the ongoing education of our citizens to prevent fires before they occur. 2018 was also a year for paving the way for the future of fire service education not only for Ft. Thomas, but for Campbell County as a whole. Members of the Ft. Thomas Fire Dept filed a FEMA AFG grant on behalf of Campbell County for a new fire safety trailer. Our current trailer is beloved by kids of all ages; however, it is over 30 years old and showing its age. The previous trailer was financed through private fund raising efforts, and if we receive the grant, it will be at no cost to the city. The new trailer will be equipped with the latest in digital technology and fire safety simulators to capture the attention of today’s audiences. In addition we also laid the foundation for another huge Hands Only CPR blitz at the Highland versus Newport Catholic basketball game. This is a follow up on our 2017 blitz at the Highlands versus Dixie football game where thousands of people were instructed in hands only CPR and allowed to attempt the skill on CPR manikins that were stationed near the concession stand. This is a vital community effort to increase the instances of bystander CPR and improve survival rates for the members of our community.
As always, our commitment to safety begins with the education of our youth in a close partnership with our local schools. Fire deaths in the United States have decreased by 38% since the 1980’s, in large part due to the message of fire safety being taught in local schools each and every year by members of the fire department. This public education campaign has followed in the footsteps of numerous other safety tools taught to children in school; such as buckling up while driving; in an effort to provide children with lifelong safety skills and reduce unnecessary harm. While children are the main focus of our fire safety education, we believe fire safety education holds value at all stages of life. On November October 26th 2018 the men and women for the Fort Thomas Fire Dept participated in a senior citizen wellness fair at the Campbell County YMCA and instructed local seniors on fire safety and trip hazards in addition to providing free biometric screenings.

While the bulk of our fire safety education and prevention messages is provided to local elementary schools, we also attend many community events such as the Pumpkin Walk, scout groups, and Touch-a-Truck. In the last year, the demographic that we targeted were all children in the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in all 5 elementary Schools:

Johnson School, Ruth Moyer School, St. Catherine’s School, St. Thomas School, and Woodfill School. There were over 30 separate teaching sessions our firefighters provided targeting those age groups.

The Campbell County Fire Protection Assn’s Fire Safety mobile house trailer was again utilized to provide many valuable life safety lessons to these children. This tool enables us to combine many lessons efficiently into one place that engages the children. These sessions provided teaching in the following age-appropriate topics: kitchen safety, general child trauma prevention, home hazard detection awareness, calls for help and 911, home fire prevention, effective exiting and emergency escape, post-evacuation meeting place gathering, and others. This year we were able to maximize department resources by scheduling all of the schools in a single week and reaching 860 students by the end of the week. We soon hope to replace this trailer with a new unit funded by an AFG grant.

1.usfa.fema.gov
The Fire Department also purchased a limited amount of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for our most vulnerable citizens. The detectors that were installed have a 10 year lithium ion battery that will prevent repeat calls to change the battery and possible fall scenarios for the citizens attempting to change their own batteries. These detectors continue to be the most important tool in providing early warning of a fire or carbon monoxide gas presence and the need for emergency action and evacuation.

This year, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Rust again initiated and coordinated an innovative approach to deliver a timely reminder to the citizens of Fort Thomas of the importance of recognizing the hazards of fire present in the home. He recognized that a Highlands home football game with a huge scoreboard was an excellent opportunity to deliver this fire safety message during the fire prevention week.

Chris met with Mr. William Poff, the teacher of the Highlands High School Film and Production Class, and coordinated the production of a short effective public service message carrying NFPA’s 2018 theme of “Look, Listen, and Learn!” This was another effective partnership between fire department and the school system. It will now be broadcast on a Time Warner Cable’s channel throughout northern Kentucky. https://www.youtube.com/user/HHSFilmAndBroadcast

Another example of this partnership for many years is the example provided by Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Wulfeck and his collaboration with Ms. Debbie Hammel with Highlands Middle School. Through this effort, CPR is taught to about 200 7th and 8th grade students at this school.

FF/P Wulfeck also has coordinated our public CPR and First Aid classes offered at the fire station for at least 15 years. Classes are held quarterly for a minimal cost to students at the station. This instruction is delivered to about 150 persons per year.

We also have continued to encourage children of all ages to visit the fire station for tours. This includes school groups, scout groups, day cares and others. These tours enable us to deliver many of the lessons above combined with demonstration of the firefighter’s protective clothing, breathing air equipment, tools, engine & aerial apparatus, medic unit, and station functional features.

The fire department also visited day cares, schools, and other functions with our crews and apparatus for demonstration and fire safety lessons.

Along with fire inspection activities at schools, the fire department attends initial fire drills conducted at the schools and consults with the schools to provide guidance to
enhance evacuation safety and efficiency. The fire evacuation drills are combined with earthquake, severe storm, and emergency school security threat training drills.

Lt. Eric Scherpenberg coordinated and represented the department the Northern Kentucky Junior Fire Marshall Poster Contest again this year. The Fort Thomas Fire Department was solely responsible for the over $4,500 dollars of desperately needed outside donations solicited to keep the program alive and running. This was a $500 dollar increase from 2017. This increase allowed every department in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties to participate in the contest regardless of ability to pay. Two local businesses even stepped up as major donors to support this region wide safety effort. The contest was a big success this year. Packets containing information about the NFPA’s theme for the year along with games and prizes were sent out to classrooms ranging from kindergarten thru 5th grade from each of our local schools. In all over 1500 packets were sent out.

In conclusion, the City of Fort Thomas continues to pave the way and be the leader in community fire protection education in both Campbell County and Northern Kentucky as a whole. We continue to create innovative ways to reach more people through various media. We recognize the challenge of educating our new digital learners and are innovating every year to ensure we keep current and push the envelope on what fire education can be.

![Look. Listen. Learn.](image_url)
STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Fire Training - Capt. Steve Lumpp, Fire Training Officer
The Fort Thomas Fire Department may be called to face any type of emergency at any time of the day. To prepare for this, we train to handle all different types of emergencies. The State of Kentucky requires all career firefighters to obtain a minimum of 100 hours of training annually. 75 hours must be fire related topics only and not emergency medical service training which can only comprise 25 hours of the first 100 hours of training. As with every year, we well exceeded those numbers. Each firefighter had an average of 168 of fire and EMS training with an average of 127 hours of fire only training and an average of 35 hours of EMS only training. Overall, the Fire Department trained 3,066.75 hours in 2018.

Training consists of a variety of delivery methods from classroom lectures, hands-on skills practice, fireground evolutions, PowerPoint presentations, etc. The goal is to train a variety of first responders in methods that will help them retain the knowledge and apply it in an emergency. Every quarter the Fire Chief and Captains meet and complete a training calendar for the next quarter. Decisions for selecting and topics are based on meeting National Fire Protection Standards, Insurance Services Office requirements, Kentucky Fire Commission requirements, and any needs as identified by the personnel within the Department. In addition to acquiring knowledge and learning new techniques, a lot of training is spent on maintaining proficiency in existing skills and knowledge.

This past year we had the opportunity to practice auto extrication on cars that were donated by Silver Grove Motors. Each shift had a car and practiced techniques that included using only manual hand tools, hydraulic rescue tools and air bags. We also had the opportunity to go to the Memorial Parkway plant of Northern Kentucky Water District and flow large volume water streams and the aerial ladder pipe. Each stream
produces anywhere from 500-1000 gallons per minute of water so having somewhere to maintain that kind of water flow and not flood the surrounding area is very important. These are just some of the unique opportunities that the Fire Department planned for training for each shift.

Campbell County has several resources that Fire Departments and agencies can use. We often use the Command Post and Mass Casualty trailer for events in the City such as the Fourth at the Fort. They also have a Mass Decontamination trailer that agencies can use if there is hazardous materials event where many people need to be deemed safe by removing chemicals, residue, or debris. One such scenario that Fort Thomas may be called upon to use this at the hospital. Every few years, we train in the setup and use of this trailer and every year we also train in hazardous materials and how to protect and treat personnel and civilians that may be exposed. In 2018 each shift practices setting up a decontamination line which utilizing water hoses and free-standing tents along with all of the other items that go along with it.
Outside Training

Campbell County Dispatch – all personnel sat with Dispatch January/February

Anderson County Fire Symposium – Edmondson - February

Owensboro Fire School – NFA Shaping the Future – Kaufman – February

Fire Inspector 2 class at Airport by SFM – Lumpp/Daugherty – March

Company Inspections – State Fire School – Edmondson – June

Fire Inspector 1 – State Fire School – Edmondson – June


PTSD class at Covington – September – Wulfek/Andrasik/Carr/Scherpenberg/Watson/Webster

IFSAC Instructor I – Campbell Co. Trg Ctr. – Behrle/Edmondson – Lumpp challenge – October

ICS 400 – Campbell Co. Trg Ctr. – Bailey/Scherpenberg – October

In 2018, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Stuart retired and Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Wright was hired. Whenever a new person is hired they go through a 2 week orientation period where they are familiarized with our equipment, standard operating procedures, daily activities, and methods of firefighting, EMS, and rescue. When the new Firefighter/Paramedic goes onto his regular shift, he also continues his orientation and training towards proficiency in equipment and operations.

Northern Kentucky and Campbell County have specialized teams that we can also use if needed. The Northern Kentucky Hazardous Materials team is one such team. Another one is the Campbell County Fire Investigation Team. Currently we have 2 personnel on this team, Josh Edmondson and Eric Scherpenberg. Whenever a department has a suspicious fire that they need help determining the cause, they can call the fire investigation team and several members from Campbell County fire and police departments will conduct the investigation. This team does monthly training so that members maintain their proficiency in addition to having to meet minimum training requirements in fire investigation to be a member of the team.
In 2018 our Fire Inspectors also started attending quarterly training. This keeps them up to date about any changes in fire codes and provides a forum for finding out how others handled inspections questions or problems. There is also a quarterly meeting of Northern Kentucky Training Officers. This provides a way to find out what others are teaching within their departments and what training opportunities in Northern Kentucky are occurring. Often representatives from the State are at Fire Inspection and Training meetings so those bigger questions can be answered by many of the personnel that make decisions that affect individual fire departments.

Besides training within the department, we send personnel to training outside the department at fire schools, conferences, classes, etc. In 2018 we were fortunate to be able to send people to these trainings and they were able to bring back the knowledge that they learned to share with the department and improve the capabilities of the Department to protect the citizens and handle emergencies. Sometimes these classes involve gaining certifications with nationally recognized standards and best practices. The certifications sometimes also enable personnel to carry out duties that they otherwise would not be allowed to perform or the performance would not be justified as following a standard.

In the past several years Kentucky has been having their programs accredited according to the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). These include Firefighter I and II, Instructor I and II, Apparatus Operator, and most recently Fire Officer I. Many firefighters have Kentucky fire certifications which are not IFSAC certifications. The Kentucky ones are still applicable but the IFSAC ones are now what Kentucky issues. The IFSAC certifications show that the programs have been accredited and meet international standards with a written and skills test.

Since many IFSAC certifications build on each other, some “older” firefighters have gone back to take the IFSAC courses. This past year, 2 firefighters gained their IFSAC Firefighter I/II levels which enabled them to also take and gain their Fire Instructor I certifications. They had been certified Kentucky firefighters for several years. Another firefighter challenged the IFSAC Instructor I certification since he had his Kentucky Fire Instructor I level for several years which was not IFSAC accredited. 3 people also attended the newest IFSAC accredited program of Fire Officer I and received their certifications.
2018 was enough great year for the Fire Department. We trained in many different areas and gained new knowledge and skills while also reinforcing previous learned knowledge and skills. The Fort Thomas Fire Department will continue to strive to be the best department able to handle any emergency that may arise. The key to this success is the dedication of the personnel to improving their abilities and the administration’s commitment to enabling the quality training both inside and outside of the department.

**Fire Inspections**

The purpose of fire inspections is to ensure the safety of the public and our personnel should we respond to an emergency at the building. Inspections also reduce possible property damage by identifying problems and their corrections. The Fort Thomas Fire Department always tries to work with property owners to meet compliance with applicable fire codes and will even work on variances to code violations so long as the variances meet the intent of the fire code and provides the same level of safety. Currently the State of Kentucky uses the 2012 Editions of the National Fire Protection Association’s Fire Code (NFPA 1) and Life Safety Code (NFPA 101). These codes have general fire safety codes and then break down applicable fire codes based upon the building’s use. There is the possibility that during 2019, the State may switch to a more current code either the 2015 or 2018 version of these Codes. NFPA 1 and 101 are revised every 3 years with some additions and subtractions based upon fire safety research and consensus of several stakeholders in the application of fire codes. Each Fire Inspector has learned how to conduct fire inspections and has been trained and tested on NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 including how to research fire inspection questions and find the applicable code to that question. In 2018 the Fire Inspectors also started attending quarterly training where a different topic is taught each month and experts are brought in to instruct. This also provides the opportunity for Fire Inspectors to talk to other Fire Inspectors and ask questions where someone else may have experienced a similar problem.
Fort Thomas Fire Department has 4 active fire inspectors but several other personnel have attained their fire inspector certification. Each Lieutenant is responsible for approximately 150 inspections and a Captain coordinates the program and is also responsible for inspecting the schools and some other properties. The Fire Inspectors also work closely the Building Inspector in Fort Thomas and frequently consult each other. In 2018, 528 fire inspections were completed. 53% of the properties inspected were in compliance and met all of the applicable fire codes on the first inspection visit. 38% of all properties required a second fire inspection to become compliant. The remaining 9% required 3 or more fire inspections to be in compliance. Most of the time a second inspection or third inspection is done because the property owner corrected some but not all of the deficiencies or the property owner may also have questions on how to properly fix any problems. It is very rare that a property owner not take action to fix the deficiencies noted. That speaks well for everyone in Fort Thomas that we all want to live and work in a safe community.

**Pre-Plans**

**Lieutenant Kasey Carr**

A preplan is a document containing detailed information about a facility that allows firefighters to quickly and effectively respond to any crisis situation at that location. Fire Departments have to be prepared for many different possibilities when responding. Accurate maps and pre-plans are essential to ensure the safety of the public and the responders. These pre-plans include facility specific information about utility shutoffs, emergency exits, hazards, etc. so having site plans, plot plans, and floor plans is very helpful. In addition, they note areas such as access and exits, rooms, mechanical areas, utility shutoffs, sprinkler risers. Lastly, a list of current contact names and telephone numbers is very important for the Fire Department to have on the pre-plans.

Over the years, the need for pre-planning building information has been cited in National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) line-of-duty death reports. NIOSH noted that the fire departments involved were deficient in conducting a pre-plan survey prior to the fatal incidents. Developing and improving building
intelligence skills enhance firefighters’ tactical capabilities of anticipating fire behavior and water supply needs, preparing for search and rescue, meeting forcible entry challenges, placing hose and ladders, performing ventilation, containing the fire, and improving firefighter safety and survival.

A pre-plan also gives the incident commander (IC) “inside information” about the structure and its contents and allows fire officers to use their resources more efficiently, improving overall fireground strategy, tactics, and the application of risk management.

The Fort Thomas Fire Department recognizes the importance of having accurate Pre-plans. At the beginning of 2018 we decided to evaluate all of the Pre-plans we had on file. During this process we saw a need within the department to create new and update current Pre-plans. This was an extensive project that was accomplished with the help of many hard working firefighters. In order to accomplish this task, they would make site visits and measure the entire building and then draw the buildings with a computer program. They also contacted every business on file and updated the Pre-plan with current information.

I am pleased to announce that over 36 new Pre-plans were created and well over 150 Pre-plans have been updated. All Pre-plans are then loaded onto the computers in our trucks and manually imported into active 911 for access with smart phones. Going forward Pre-plans will now be updated annually.
Emergency Medical Services – Capt. Tammy Webster, EMS Coordinator

Your life squad stands ready to answer our citizens’ calls for help any time of the day or night. Our life squad, “Medic 680” responds with two paramedics around the clock every day of the year.

As you can see our runs range from back pain to cardiac arrest (a subject not breathing and does not have a pulse) to respiratory problems. Falls account for the largest number of responses. An older population and several nursing homes attribute to this situation.

In 2018 the life squad responded to 1,245 calls for help.

The type of the runs that we make vary quite a bit, so does the age of the patients that we encounter. We are prepared and trained to treat patients of any age. We may encounter patients that are delivered prematurely or patients that have seen a century go by.
The Kentucky Board of EMS requires that paramedics in the state recertify every two years. They also require specific hours for recertification. I am pleased to report that our paramedics exceed this training requirement year after year. This year the paramedics completed 661 hours of continuing education.

There are a number of ways that our paramedics obtain training. The department provides about 30 hours of EMS training per year at the firehouse. A few of the topics we discussed this year included injury prevention, documentation, Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma, and a comprehensive protocol revision.

The protocol revision is a comprehensive look at the protocols that govern our EMS system. Protocols outline the proper way to treat patients with specific medical issues. The document was divided so that each shift had an opportunity to participate. The shifts submitted revisions that we discussed as a group. Dr. Tim Love our medical director provided valuable insight into the process. The revisions will be submitted to the Kentucky Board of EMS for acceptance. Once they are approved our staff will be trained on the changes and they will be implemented.

We also encourage staff to attend educational events provided by outside entities. Both Christ Hospital St Elizabeth hospitals provide a yearly conference that is popular with staff. These opportunities are important because it allows staff to bring other ideas, equipment, and procedures to our department. This speaks to the organization and our staff’s commitment to excellence.

The increased drug use in the community in last few years has led to an increase in communicable diseases in the region. Hepatitis B is one of those diseases that is a big
concern for first responders. In 2018 we made it a priority to ensure that our staff were immunized. This process took a number of months and required that about half of the staff be re-vaccinated to ensure optimized immunity.

The changing culture in fire and EMS has made training even more important than ever. The fire/EMS service is now considered an all threats responder. We have had to adapt our training in an effort to prepare for those circumstances. For instance, our personnel trained to respond to mass shootings in a way that we would have not considered twenty years ago. Events that have occurred across the county suggest that we need to be prepared for such an eventuality.

Another example is the use of 12 lead EKGs. This technology, previously only available to cardiologist, is now being routinely used in the back of the squad or in resident’s living rooms. The use of this technology often allows our patients to bypass the emergency room and go directly to the cath lab for definitive treatment by a cardiologist. This is improving patient outcomes. The sooner patients are in the cath lab and have their vessels open the better they do.

Just recently, a 73-year-old male called 911 due to not feeling well. He had one episode of vomiting, was cool, pale, and diaphoretic (slightly sweaty). The medics ran a 12 lead and discovered that he was having a heart attack. The 12 lead was transmitted electronically to Christ Hospital. From the time that the squad was dispatched to the time that the patient was in the cath lab at Christ, where he had a stent to open his right coronary artery, was 61 minutes. He was discharged home less than 48 hours later.

While there have been many challenges and changes to EMS over the years one thing has remained a constant. The City of Ft. Thomas Fire Department is a leader in EMS. We were one of the first agencies in Northern Kentucky to transition from basic life support to advanced life support. This transition took place in the mid 1970’s. Many organizations have not made the change yet or have done so in the last few years.

There are a number of things that set this department apart from others in the region. One of those things is how experienced our staff is. Experience counts. More than half of our paramedics have more than ten years of experience; six have twenty or more years. There is no substitute for experience, Experience directly translates to better care for our residents.
Another function that sets us apart from other agencies is staffing and equipping our engine companies. Many agencies staff an engine company with basic EMS supplies and basic life support providers. I'm proud to report that Ft. Thomas staffs both of our engine companies with paramedics and advanced life support equipment. This allows us to provide advanced care to our citizens even when our life squad is on another call. When this occurs, our paramedics render advanced life support while we wait for an out of city life squad. This is a fairly common occurrence.

When our life squad is on another run and we have to call a life squad from another city we call this a mutual aid run. We have longstanding mutual aid agreements with other agencies that make this possible. Not only do they help us when our squad is busy, we reciprocate. It is a common occurrence for squads to make runs into our city and for our squad to respond to other cities.

In an effort to provide top notch service to our residents many of the calls received at the dispatch center automatically dispatch an engine with the squad. This occurs on more serious runs. These might include non-breathing and/or unresponsive patients, auto accidents, person down calls, and more serious traumatic injuries like falls from a roof.

We recently had a critical injured patient that was unresponsive on the scene. This patient needed urgent transport to University Hospital’s emergency room. Lucky the dispatch center sent the engine company with the squad recognizing the severity. This resulted with six paramedics on the scene within four minutes. This patient was very critical. The crew on duty worked together and transported this individual quickly. He suffered cardiac arrest just as they arrived at University Hospital’s emergency room. The staff at the emergency room gave him multiple units of blood, got a pulse back,
transfer him to surgery where he arrested again. They were able to get his heart beating again and repair his injury. He was discharged home several days later with no deficit. While this story is incredible it is not unique. There are a lot of success stories very similar to this.

Luckily in the case above, the dispatch center dispatched the engine with the squad. However, the staff on the squad also has the option to call the dispatch center and request that the engine be sent to their location for assistance. The fact that when the squad calls for help, they are getting two or more paramedics not basic EMT’s is fantastic and another situation that sets this organization apart from others in the region.

Lastly, I would like to say that we are committed to continued improvement in our service to the community. There have been many efforts in the last year aimed at ensuring our service continues to be the best in the region. We are now following a Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance program aimed to ensure that we are delivering and documenting the best care possible. This is a comprehensive program that ensures that our response times are adequate, the treatment the patient receives is excellent, and the patient destination appropriate.

I am pleased and proud to report that your community is well protected by nineteen excellent paramedics. They stand ready to serve, day or night, 365 days a year.
2018 EMS and Fire Training

2018 Training Hours Analysis

As you are aware, we have requirements from the state for both Fire and EMS hours of training. Above you see we easily meet the requirements from the state for continuing education in both professions.
The graph above illustrates the number of responses per month by designated type for 2018. The yellow line represents first response runs, indicating our life squad was already out on another run. The red line represents fire/incident runs and the blue line represents life squad runs.

It is noteworthy that our run volume is fairly consistent with a slight peak in the late summer months.

The next graph demonstrates all calls for service, fire/incident, first response and EMS by the time of day. This answers a question often asked about the busiest time of day for the fire department. Our peak times in 2018 seemed to be between 1100 and 1800 hours.
2018 Fire Incidents by Time of Day

2018 EMS Incidents by Time of Day
2018 Fire Incidents by Day of Week
### 2018 Type of Fire Incidents

#### Rescue & EMS Incidents, 45.1%

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat/Explosion (No Fire)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescue &amp; EMS Incidents</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>265</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Call</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Intent Call</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>False Alarm &amp; False Call</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe Weather</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
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It is certainly noteworthy, that in the Fire/Incident category, 238 responses were listed as Rescue/EMS. These runs are primarily motor vehicle, first response runs or other types of accidents that require additional staffing and equipment to resolve. False alarms include alarm system activations that were accidental and not necessarily malicious in nature.

![Trend Analysis by Fire Incident Type](image)

The chart above represents the increase or decrease in particular incident categories over the past five years.
Response of Off-Duty Personnel

The number of firefighters returning when recalled is important to the firefighting ability of our department. This graph shows in 2014 – 2.6, 2015 – 3.0, 2016 – 2.9, 2017 – 3.0 and 2018 – 3.9. It is important for this trend to continue for the safety of everyone involved.
Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid continues to be an important aspect of providing quality and efficient services to our community. We rely on our neighbors, particularly Bellevue-Dayton, Central Campbell, Newport and Southgate to assist us under the following circumstances:
FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSE DATA (CONTINUED)

- Working Fires
- Large Scale Incidents
- Multiple Runs
- Automatic Response
- Units Out of Service
- Multiple EMS Runs

These graphs are reflective of our high usage of automatic response from other departments to alarms that require a first-in response greater than our on-duty capability, such as St. Elizabeth-Ft. Thomas Hospital.

**Fire Loss**

![Fire Loss Trends](image)

The chart above looks at the total annual fire loss over the past five years. A single large-loss fire dramatically impacts annual fire loss in our community.
Emergency Medical Service Response

The following charts depict EMS runs in a variety of ways over the last five years. Specifically, in 2018, our department made 1245 EMS runs.

EMS Incidents Trend Analysis

*Does not include First Response runs by Engine Companies*

2018 Patients by Gender

Female  Male
EMS RESPONSE DATA (CONTINUED)

2018 Responses by Unit

Graphs assembled by Captain Steve Lumpp
EMS RESPONSE DATA (CONTINUED)

Transports/Refusals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Runs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transports</td>
<td>998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dead On Scene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unfounded</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td>178</td>
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Patient Destination

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Children's</td>
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<tr>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Edgewood</td>
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<td>University</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Graphs assembled by Captain Tammy Webster
Hydrant Data 2016 – FF/P Josh Edmondson/Capt. Chris Amon

The City of Fort Thomas is now up to 562 Fire Hydrants, these hydrants are maintained with the help of the northern Kentucky Water District to insure the availability of water for fire suppression. During the fall we continue to ensure our hydrants are in working order, and pump any remaining water out of the hydrant to help protect against freezing in cold weather. During this process we inspect every hydrant to make sure that it is not full of water from either faulty stem seals or ground water not draining. We maintain a list of the trouble hydrants and mark them so we know in freezing weather they are not usable. Every year we submit this list to the water district to have them check and service the offending hydrants. Over the last few years we have whittled the list down to a total of 18. We have started a conversation with the water district to begin assessing when the hydrants can be serviced or replaced.

We continue to update our GPS Mapping system as the flow rates change with new water lines and hydrants placed yearly. The tracking of this data helps us visually understand where we have areas of limited water supply, and helps us plan accordingly in the event we have emergency responses in those places.

During the spring and summer months we test 1/3 of our total hydrants to establish what our baseline water pressures are in those neighborhoods. These numbers change as water mains are replaced or new homes are built.
February 4, 2019

Chief Mark Bailey
City of Ft. Thomas
Fire Chief
130 North Fort Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Chief Bailey,

I am proud to say the membership of Local 1928 continued their commitment to be “fit for duty” in 2018. We are pleased to have the ability use the fitness room in the city building and appreciate the city’s continued commitment to this area and/or program.

The commitment for our members to be physically fit takes many different forms. Some of our staff use professional programs like P90X, and TRX while others are using programs designed by staff of the fire department or programs they research and choose.

We encourage our members to participate in fitness activities as a shift. There are many benefits to this including camaraderie, encouraging each other, and accountability. Often there is an entire shift in the fitness room. Many of us have realized increased improvements in fitness due to support from our peers.

We continue our quest to be physically fit off duty as well. We had members compete in numerous fitness events like the Tough Mudder, Flying Pig Half Marathon, and numerous other 5K races. We had three members participate in the Climb for Air at the Crew Tower. In this event members climbed to the top of the Crew Tower in full firefighting gear. It is a great accomplishment to participate in this fund raising event for the American Lung Association.

Countless hours were spent both on and off duty in 2018 to ensure that we are “fit for duty.” Rest assured that we will continue to do the same in 2019.

Respectfully,

Tammy Webster
President
Ft Thomas Firefighters
I.A.F.F. Local 1928