

Willoughby Hills Fire Department

2022 Annual Report



Willoughby Hills
OHIO
Where the City Meets the Country

Introduction

We are proud to present to you the 2022 Annual Report of the **Willoughby Hills Fire Department**. While having the COVID-19 pandemic all but behind us, 2022 was spent continuing to settle into the “new normal” while trying to get back to pre-pandemic form. Overall, the city fared well financially thanks to the “Work From Home” trend that continued through 2022 helping to meet our operational and capital purchase needs. Staffing, however, continues to be a significant challenge. Finding people wanting to work in public safety is difficult locally as well as nation-wide and has a relatively large impact on daily staffing at WHFD given that our minimum staffing relies heavily on part-time employees whose numbers are dwindling and stretched thin amongst all of the fire departments in our area. We continue to explore different avenues to rectify this problem and to ensure that we can continue providing the level of service our community has come to expect. We thank the mayor, city council, and the entire community for their continued support.

[Click Here For Our Official Website](#)



In Memory: retired Chief Walter A. Knapp, Jr. (left) who passed away December 14, 2022.

Left to Right:
Chief Knapp, Chief Schumacher, Chief Heckler



History of the Willoughby Hills Fire Department

In 1946, the area now known as the City of Willoughby Hills was the southwestern portion of the sprawling Willoughby Township. Fire protection was provided from a station located on Route 20 about two miles west of SR 91 and ambulance service came from an undertaker's garage in Willoughby. Route 91, running south from SR 84, went down a steep grade into a ravine, through an S-curve, then up another steep grade to access the southern section of the township. Emergency response times, particularly during wet or snowy weather, were slow resulting in several severe fire losses. A group of concerned citizens petitioned township trustees to provide a fire station in the area. The trustees offered a fire engine if the residents would provide their own station and firefighters. The Garfield Division of the Willoughby Township Fire Department (named after Garfield School) was formed in the Spring of 1947 and its 14 founding members ran with a 1936 open-cab pumper housed in a garage on Chardon Road just east of SR 91. Glen Kennelly was elected the first fire chief by the Garfield Volunteer Fireman's Association. In 1948, with money, materials, and labor donated by citizens and members, a new fire station was built on Stark Drive (now Firehouse Grill & Pub) housing a 1943 fire engine, which was again provided by the township. Facing annexation, citizens voted in 1954 to incorporate into a village and the Willoughby Hills Fire Department as we know it was born.

75th Anniversary (1947 - 2022)

This year rang in the 75th anniversary of the Willoughby Hills Fire Department. To mark the event, a celebration attended by many current and former department members was held on November 12th at Firehouse Grille & Pub; the home of WHFD until 1980. Additionally, a special logo to memorialize the milestone was designed as was a challenge coin & coffee mugs which were presented to alumni. Finally, a time capsule containing rosters, badges, and various other articles, sealed away during the addition & renovation of 2002, was opened and put on display during the celebration. We are proud of our history and of serving our community!



Response District & Services

Our first-due response district consists of the City of Willoughby Hills as well as the Village of Waite Hill to which WHFD has provided contracted Fire-Rescue/EMS services since 1976. This combined area consists of approximately 15 square miles with a residential population of over 10,000 people. Our particular response district provides a very diverse set of challenges and responsibilities. Examples include a wide array of residential construction types including eight high-rise apartment buildings (2,164 units; the most in Lake County), approximately 60-lane miles of interstate (IR 90 & IR 271), the scenic Chagrin River, various Cleveland and Lake Metroparks properties including the 1,700-acre North Chagrin Reservation and Manakiki Golf Course & Country Club, and portions of the Cuyahoga County Airport and its approach & departure paths. We are bordered by nine different communities involving two counties and we work closely with our neighboring fire departments in Lake, Cuyahoga, and Geauga Counties through various mutual aid and automatic mutual aid response agreements.

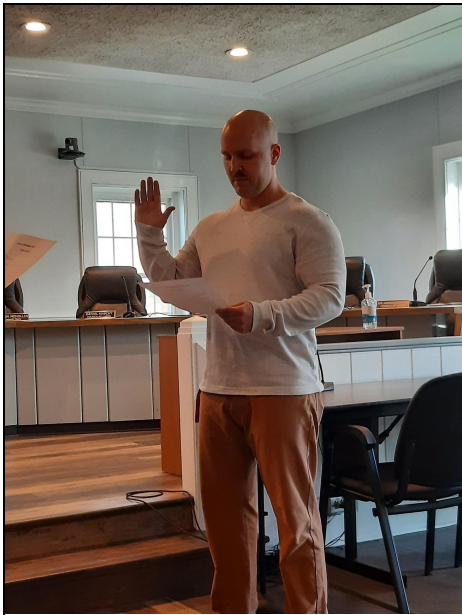
The Willoughby Hills Fire Department (I.S.O. Rating 3) considers itself an “all-hazards” fire-rescue organization. We provide both emergency and non-emergency services and are sought out as both a first resort *and* last resort resource. That is, the public calls the fire department when they need us specifically but also when they don’t know who else to call. Our personnel live up to this challenge by constantly training and preparing to mitigate these types of circumstances as you will see in the “Training” subsection later in this report.

Below is a list of services most commonly provided by WHFD:

Emergency	Non-Emergency
Fire Suppression & Investigation	Public / Invalid Assists
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Animal Rescue & Assists
Vehicle Accidents & Extrication	Smoke Alarm + Residential Lock Box programs
Hazardous Materials + Utility Emergencies	Fire Prevention (inspections + code enforcement)
Technical Rescue (water, collapse, confined space, etc.)	Public Relations & Education Events

2022 Roster and Personnel Changes

The Willoughby Hills Fire Department continues to pursue qualified candidates to fulfill the needs of our organization and of the community as a whole in response to the continued challenge of finding workers in the public safety profession. While there was some significant movement in the part-time ranks in 2022, there were no changes to career staffing.



< Firefighter Tibjash taking the oath



< Firefighters
Siemen, Ours, Rowan

2022 WHFD Roster

Rank	Name	Serving Since	Badge Number		Rank	Name	Serving Since	Badge Number
Fire Chief	Robert Gandee	2019	025		PT Firefighter	James Perkovich	1990	103
Lieutenant	Louis DiMattia	1997	018		PT Firefighter	Benjamin Robinson	1991	104
Lieutenant	Timothy Serazin	1996	017		PT Firefighter	Larry Smedley	1998	105
Lieutenant	Patricia Heller	1990	015		PT Firefighter	Gregory Kessler	1998	106
FT Firefighter	Steven Lucic	1990	013		PT Firefighter	David Biggert	2000	107
FT Firefighter	John D. Clayton	1994	019		PT Firefighter	Jill Baus	2002	108
FT Firefighter	Jeffrey Planisek	2010	020		PT Firefighter	Timothy Beck	2004	110
FT Firefighter	Cindy Sabo	2012	021		PT Firefighter	Jonathan Havel	2005	112
FT Firefighter	Robert Vencel	2006	022		PT Firefighter	Dale Cubranich	2008	116
FT Firefighter	Nathan Hoffmann	2017	024		PT Firefighter	Keith Kanner	2011	119
FT Firefighter	Zachari Martin	2017	027		PT Firefighter	Steve Drop	2016	125
FT Firefighter	Brian Paladino	2020	028		PT Firefighter	Jake Foster	2016	126
FT Firefighter	Will Distler	2020	029		PT Firefighter	William Rogers	2018	131
					PT Firefighter	David Degutis	2018	134
Secretary	Stephanie Nero	2004	304		PT Firefighter	John Colavecchio	2019	136
Med. Director	Don Spaner, MD		308		PT Firefighter	Jacob Stanevich	2019	138
Members Hired in 2022: Matthew Duplaga - May Nicholas Foard - Jun Sean Lawlor - Jun Robert Ours - Aug Nicholas Surckla - Jun Michael Siemen - Aug Brendan Shelby - Jun Nathan Rowan - Aug Daniel Wheeler - Jun Matthew Tibjash - Oct Members Separating Service in 2022: Dalton Bode - August Tyrus Kovach - July Adrian Baker - October Sean Lawlor - September					PT Firefighter	Dalton Bode	2021	139
					PT Firefighter	Tyrus Kovach	2021	140
					PT Firefighter	Patrick Behm	2021	141
					PT Firefighter	Steven Stokes	2021	142
					PT Firefighter	Adrian Baker	2021	143
					PT Firefighter	Matthew Duplaga	2022	144
					PT Firefighter	Sean Lawlor	2022	122
					Continued On Next Page			

Continued From Previous Page				Rank	Name	Serving Since	Badge Number
				PT Firefighter	Nicholas Surckla	2022	145
				PT Firefighter	Brendan Shelby	2022	146
				PT Firefighter	Daniel Wheeler	2022	147
				PT Firefighter	Nicholas Foard	2022	148
				PT Firefighter	Robert Ours	2022	149
				PT Firefighter	Michael Siemen	2022	150
				PT Firefighter	Nathan Rowan	2022	151
				PT Firefighter	Matthew Tibjash	2022	152

Looking For a Job in the Fire Service?



The **Willoughby Hills Fire Department** is looking for quality hard-working men and women to join our team. We are a single-station combination career + part-time fire department in Lake County taking almost 2,500 runs a year. We are responsible for both Fire & Rescue response and see an extensive array of calls for service which provide for a unique and exciting work environment while at the same time allowing us to serve the community.

We are currently accepting part-time applications with potential career opportunities in the future. Contact Fire Administration (440) 918-8711 or visit our website if interested in learning more.

www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov/departments/safety/fire

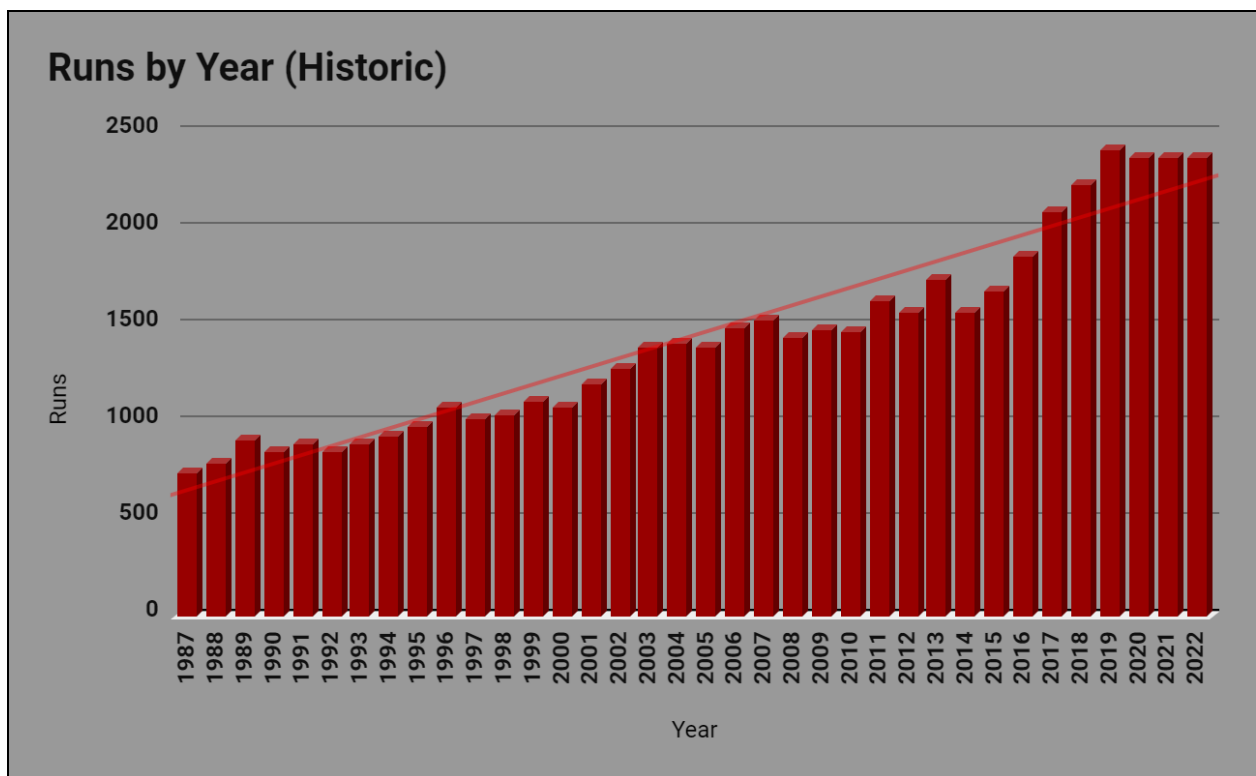


2022 Incident Statistics

This past year, WHFD took a total of **2,360 runs**, which is an average of 6.5 runs per day. This number is based on those incidents that were documented by an incident report and submitted to the NFIRS (see below) but does not include the various other services & activities provided on a daily basis i.e. fire prevention and public relations & education, training, maintenance, etc.

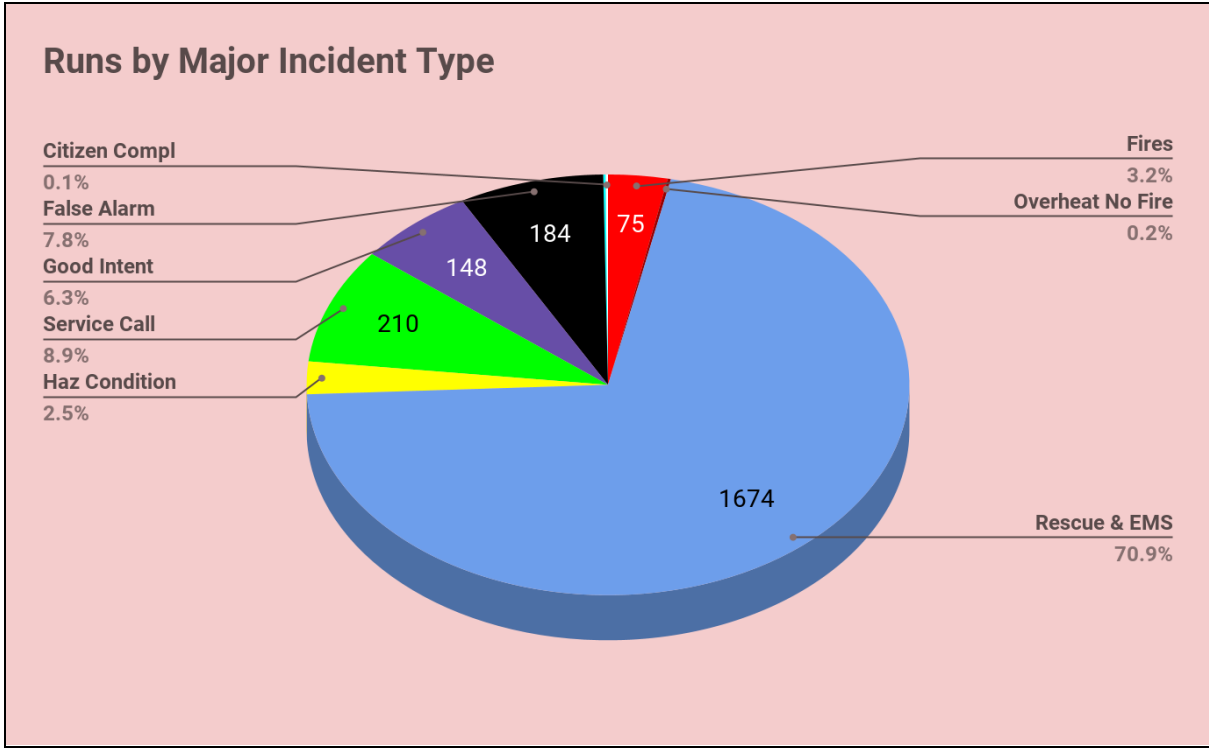
Minimum on duty staffing for WHFD is five personnel consisting of both career and part-time.

WHFD does provide data to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



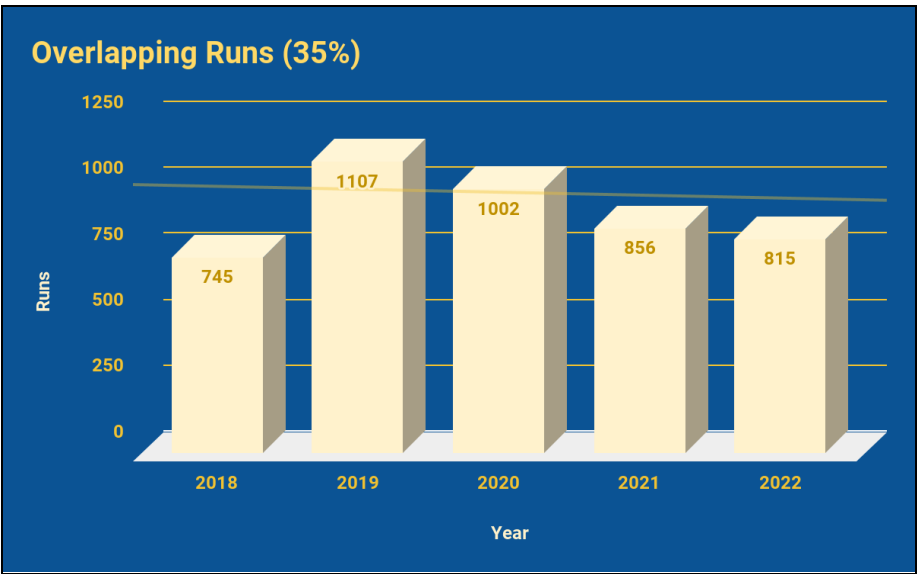
The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a reporting standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to severe weather and natural disasters.

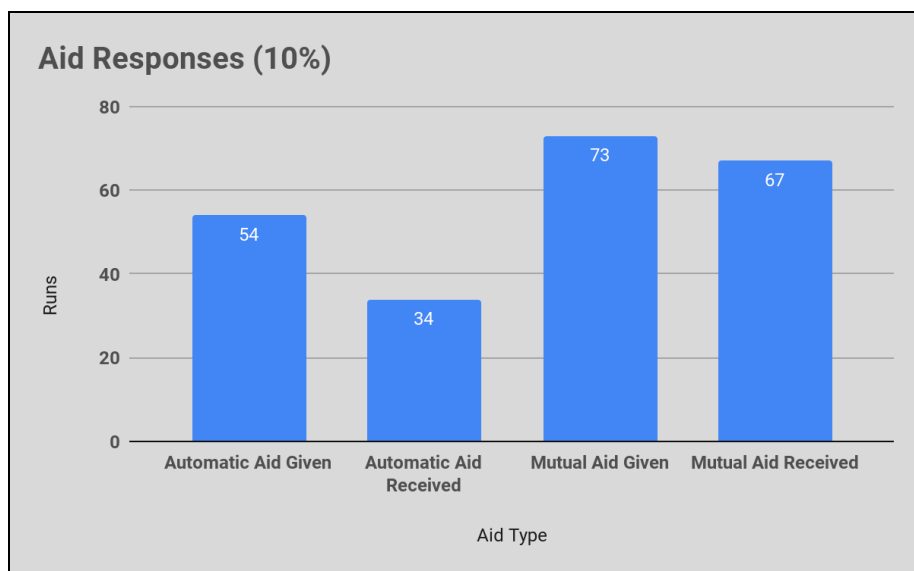
NFIRS is a model of successful federal, state, tribal, U.S. territory and local government partnerships. The database constitutes the world's largest national collection of fire department response incident information.



TOTAL LOSSES: \$287,650 TOTAL SAVED: \$1,961,960
32 STRUCTURE FIRES

INCIDENT TYPE	RUNS
FIRES	75
OVERHEAT, EXPLOSIONS - NO FIRE	4
RESCUE & EMS	1,674
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	59
SERVICE CALL	210
FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL	148
GOOD INTENT CALL	184
SEVERE WX & NATURAL DISASTER	3
CITIZEN COMPLAINT	3
TOTAL	2,360

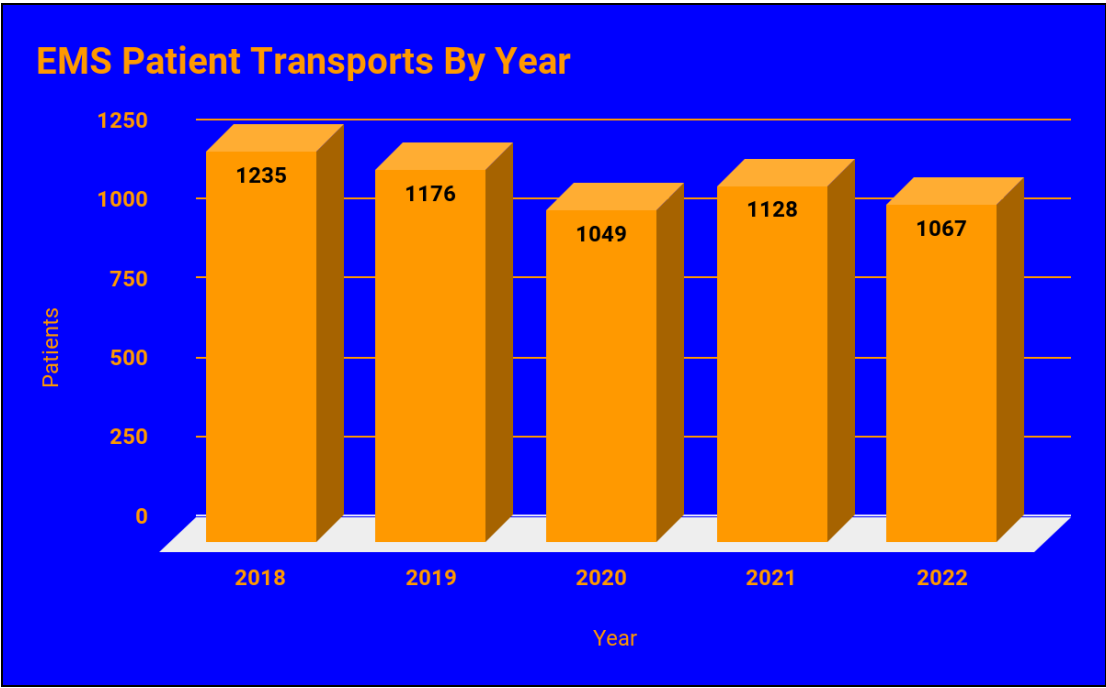
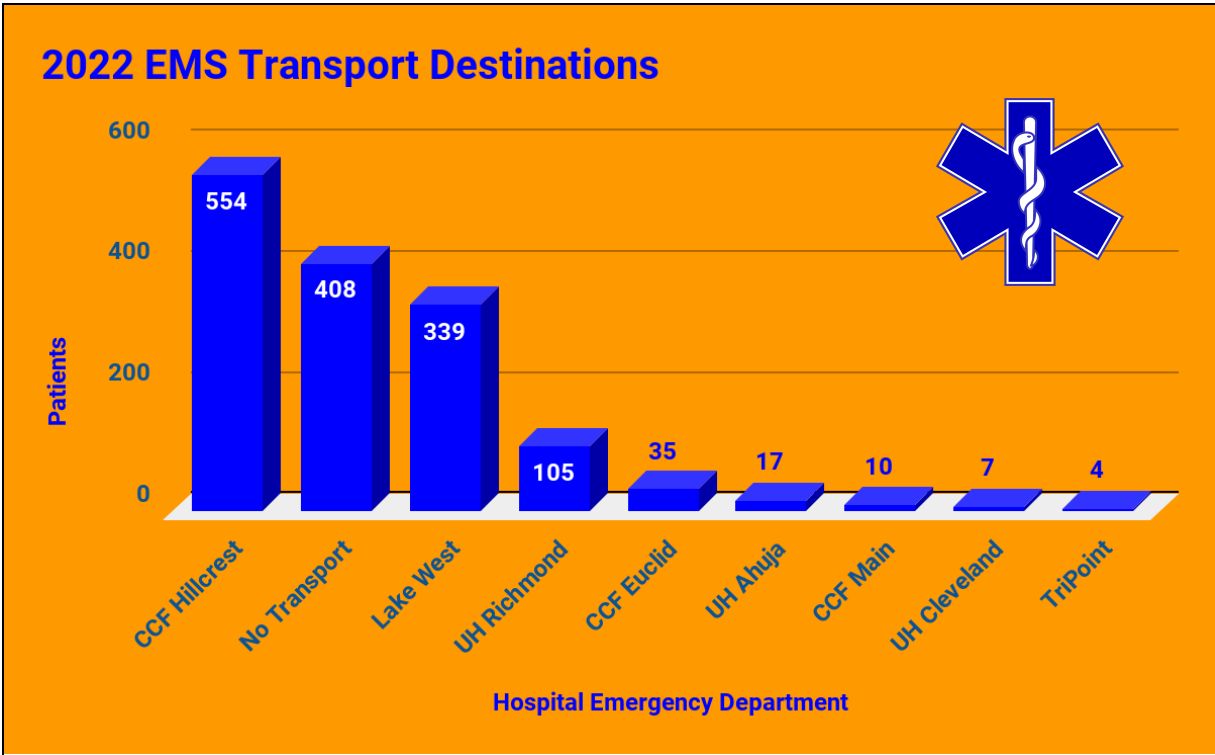




AMA - WH East of 271 (1)		AMA - WH West of 271 (2)		AMA - Waite Hill (3)	
DEPARTMENT	COMPANY	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY
WICKLIFFE	ENGINE	WICKLIFFE	ENGINE	KIRTLAND	ENGINE
HIGHLAND HTS	ENGINE	HIGHLAND HTS	ENGINE	WILLOUGHBY	ENGINE
KIRTLAND	ENGINE	RICHMOND HTS	ENGINE	MENTOR	ENGINE
MAYFIELD VIL.	LADDER (75 S)	MAYFIELD VIL.	LADDER (75 S)	EASTLAKE	ENGINE
WILLOUGHBY	LADDER (100 P)	WILLOUGHBY	LADDER (100 P)	MAYFIELD VIL	LADDER (75 S)
EASTLAKE	MEDIC	WILLOWICK	MEDIC	HIGHLAND HTS	MEDIC
1211 - 1212 - 1215 - 1216 - 1218 - 1219		1221 - 1222 - 1215 - 1226 - 1218 - 1219		1231 - 1232 - 1215 - 1236 - 1218 - 1219	

AMA - Par Ln / The Village (4)		AMA - 271 N MVA		AMA - Tech & River Plan (1294)	
DEPARTMENT	COMPANY	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY
WICKLIFFE	ENGINE	MAYFIELD VIL	RESC ENGINE	E.T.R.T.	TEAM RESPONSE
HIGHLAND HTS	ENGINE	MAYFIELD VIL	MEDIC	KIRTLAND	1917+ATV (Eagle Rd)
EASTLAKE	ENGINE	1219 - 1299		WILLOUGHBY	WAT RES UNIT (R 84)
MAYFIELD VIL.	LADDER (75 S)	AMA - ROLLOVER / TRAP		MENTOR	1147 (Chag River Park)
WILLOUGHBY	LADDER (100 P)	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY	EASTLAKE	1727+1737 (Lak Shor)
WILLOWICK	MEDIC	WILLOUGHBY	R-1417	WICKLIFFE	MEDIC
1215 - 1246 - 1218 - 1219		1219 - 1299		1244 - 1254 - 1264 - 1274 - 1294	

* HAZ-MAT BOX (1277) CAN BE UTILIZED INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER BOX.



2022 Highlights & Accomplishments

- Integration of dispatch CAD and HealthEMS patient care reporting software (Feb)
- Joined the Northeast Ohio Regional Firefighter Entrance Exam for civil service testing (Mar)
- Ordered new Spartan NXT fire engine from Johnson's Emergency Vehicle Solutions (Apr)
- Began using HealthEMS for NFIRS fire reporting (Apr)
- Begin dispatch "Auto Fill" system for CAD unit recommendations (Apr)
- WHFD 75th celebrates 75 years of dedicated service (Jun)
- UH Richmond Medical Center ER permanently closes (Aug)
- Removal of old ventilation ductwork from apparatus bays (Sep)
- Cleveland FF Johnny Tetrack line of duty death funeral held in Willoughby Hills (Nov)
- Retired Chief Walter Knapp Jr passes away (Dec)
- Ordered chassis for new ambulance from Pfund Superior Sales (Life Line Emergency Vehicles)
- Purchased additional FLIR thermal imaging cameras
- Installation of city network security cameras at fire station
- Installed new weather station at fire station
- Awarded federal grant (\$56,500) for new hydraulic rescue tools



2022 Fleet & Facility

Providing the wide array of services expected of the fire department by the public is no small feat and requires a great deal of specialized vehicles and equipment as well as a fire station to house them in. The Willoughby Hills community (including its firefighters) is fortunate to have such resources available to them in their times of need. These resources also require extensive upkeep and maintenance, much of which is done by fire department members themselves or by the city's mechanic or service department, likely saving the city thousands of dollars it would otherwise have to pay a vendor. While most people settle for "good enough" when it comes to their vehicles and other possessions, this simply is not acceptable when it comes to emergency vehicles and the equipment they carry. Reliability is imperative when lives and property are on the line. This means that vehicles and equipment must be replaced before they become unreliable and before maintenance costs exceed what replacement would. Fire department capital purchases are considered "big ticket" items; however, the cost long-term is significantly less than that of many other municipal necessities and history has shown that there are various ways to finance these purchases.

Fleet

Fire department fleets typically consist of front line or "first-out" apparatus and "backup" & "reserve" apparatus as well as other resources such as support vehicles and staff cars. Backup and reserve vehicles are typically older than the first-out vehicles but must still be reliable in the event of multiple emergencies or in the event a first-out vehicle is rendered out of service.

2022 was a big year for fleet capital purchases. A new \$840,000 Spartan custom fire engine (plus equipment for a total of approximately \$1M) was ordered from Johnson EVS after months of specification and planning. It is due for delivery Fall of 2023. This will finally return WHFD to the status of having both a first-out and reserve fire engine after years of borrowing equipment from other cities. A new command vehicle (Ford F250) and chief vehicle (Ford Expedition) have also been purchased.. Finally, a replacement ambulance chassis was also ordered in anticipation of a 2023 order from Pfund Superior Sales (Life Line Emergency Vehicles).

Below is a table showing the Willoughby Hills Fire Department fleet along with the proposed apparatus replacement schedule.

Year	Unit	Status	Age (Years)	Planned Replacement
1997 ‡	Engine 1213	GovDeals (OOS)	25	2023
2005	Tower 1219	Front Line	17	2030
2006	Medic 1232	Reserve	16	2024
2012	Engine 1214	Front Line	10	2031
2012	Car 1211	Shift Officer (1210)	10	2023
2014 *	Medic 1222	Backup	8	2027
2015	Car 1200	Fire Chief	7	2023
2019	Medic 1212	First-Out	2	2035

‡Re-paint & upgrades in 2004

* 2003 module remounted on 2014 chassis

Fire Engines (“Pumpers”)

The fire engine is the workhorse of the fleet. Not only does it carry hose and water, it holds many other tools essential to carrying out the host of other tasks necessary to accomplish on the modern fireground and the various other emergency scenes it is called to.

Engine 1214 (Front Line)

2012 Pierce Saber - 1,500 gpm single-stage Darley pump - 750 gal water - 30 gal foam

2022 End Mileage: - Hours: - Runs taken in 2022:



E-1214 was a “demo unit” purchased by WHFD at a reduced cost and was slated to be moved to reserve in 2017.

Engine 1213 (Reserve) (OOS)

1997 Sutphen - 2,000 gpm single-stage Hale pump - 750 gal water - 100 gal foam

Upgrades in 2004 included repaint, LED lighting, minor body modifications

2022 End Mileage: n/a - Hours: n/a - Runs taken in 2022: 0



Repairs were made in 2017 to extend the life of this vehicle another two or three years until funds could be secured for a replacement, which has yet to be purchased.

Due to extensive corrosion involving the chassis of this vehicle, and the potential for body separation, E-1213 was taken out of service due to these unsafe conditions.

Currently, a spec is built and quotes and financing is being arranged for the replacement of this vehicle.

Ladder Truck ("Aerial" or "Tower")

Most people think of fire engines when they think of fire apparatus, but the ladder truck plays an important role as well. The ladder truck provides a means of accessing locations out of reach of ground ladders as well as for elevated water streams. They also carry equipment typically unable to be carried by fire engines such as larger ground ladders, salvage equipment, etc.

Tower 1219

2005 Pierce Dash - 100-ft aerial platform - 2,000 gpm single-stage Waterous pump

300 gal water - Quint: water pump + water tank + hose + aerial device + ground ladders

2022 End Mileage: - Hours: - Runs taken in 2022:



"Towers" have a platform at the end of their aerial device whereas many do not and are referred to as "straight sticks."

Ambulances (“Rescue Squads” or “Medics”)

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) account for the highest percentage of the fire department’s call volume; approximately 65%. The modern ambulance is commonly referred to as an “emergency room on wheels” given the capabilities of it and its crew. As paramedics, we are an extension of the emergency department physician thus elevating the level of pre-hospital medical and trauma care the community receives. Staffing-dependent, WHFD operates two fully-equipped Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic-level rescue squads.

Medic 1212 (First-Out)

2019 Life Line / Ford F550 4WD Diesel / Type 1 Ambulance

2022 End Mileage: - Hours: - Runs taken in 2022:



M-1212 was a demo ambulance purchased with CARES Act funding (\$320,000) and placed into service on January 6, 2021.



Medic 1222 (Backup)

2014 Life Line "Remount" / Ford E450 Gasoline / Type 3 (2003 module re-chassis in 2015)

2022 End Mileage: - Hours: - Runs taken in 2022:



M-1222 is WHFD's first gasoline-powered rescue squad chassis since the 1980s.



Medic 1232 (Reserve)

2006 Life Line / Ford E450 Diesel / Type 3 Ambulance

2022 End Mileage: - Runs taken in 2022:



M-1232 was the department's first black-over-red rescue squad.

Support Vehicles

Support vehicles serve a variety of purposes from emergency response to picking up supplies at the hospital to shopping for the shift's meals.

Car 1211 (Command Car / EMS Chase Vehicle)

2012 Ford Expedition / Gasoline

2022 End Mileage: - Runs taken in 2022:



Typically driven by the shift officer, the “command car” provides a controlled environment in which to coordinate and command various incidents & resources..

As an EMS chase vehicle, it provides a flexible means of providing additional staffing on scene as needed.



Car 1217 (Utility / Details)

2012 Ford F350 / Gasoline

2022 End Mileage: - Runs taken in 2022:



Used as an all-purpose utility and detail vehicle and for plowing snow in the winter.



Car 1231 (Fire Prevention / Details)

2015 Jeep Liberty Sport / Gasoline

Runs taken in 2022:



Former mayor's vehicle and re-purposed to WHFD.



Car 1200 (Fire Chief)

2015 Ford Explorer / Gasoline (Police Interceptor)

Runs taken in 2022:



Former WHPD vehicle re-purposed to WHFD.



Rescue 1247 / 584 (Eastside Technical Rescue Team - Water Rescue Assets)

2001 International Navistar / McCoy Miller pull vehicle + Wells Cargo trailer

Runs taken in 2022:



Equipment owned by the ETRT
Housed and responded by WHFD

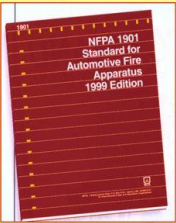
Equipment includes water, dive, and ice rescue.





Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance

Vehicle maintenance is a large and important part of the firefighters' responsibilities. Vehicles and equipment must be ready to go *immediately* when an emergency comes in. Hundreds of hours of basic maintenance and repairs are performed annually by fire department members as well as the city mechanic saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars. Larger or more technical repairs or those requiring specialized equipment or processes (aerial ladder testing for example) are performed by vendors who hold the various certifications to do so.

NFPA: Fire Apparatus Standards



1. **#1901 Automotive Fire Apparatus**
2. **#1906 Wildland Fire Apparatus**
3. **#1911 In-Service Pumper Testing**
4. **#1912 In-Service Apparatus Refurbishing**
5. **#1914 In-Service Aerial Testing**
6. **#1915 In-Service Apparatus Maintenance**



Multiple NFPA standards that pertain solely to fire apparatus that must be adhered to when specifying new apparatus and performing maintenance on existing fleet.

Fire Station Facility

Another important aspect of the fire department is the fire station. It is the hub of the division's operations. In addition to housing millions of dollars worth of apparatus, equipment, and other

assets, it is a second home for the firefighters who staff it. The fire station needs to be a secure functional facility which allows for the rapid deployment of life-saving resources into the community with the safety and health of its firefighters and the public in mind.

It has been 20 years since the most recent renovation of the fire station and it is starting to show its age. In 2022, old (no longer in service) ventilation ductwork was removed from the bay floor amongst other minor cosmetic improvements.



Originally built in 1979, the fire station was added on to in 1981 and a \$1.2M addition & renovation completed in 2002.

~ 20 Years ~



Fire Station in October 2001



Fire Station in September 2002

Special Teams

WHFD participates in several “special teams” which are groups of highly trained firefighters from each department in the county/region (and other members of the response community) who provide services that most cities cannot provide themselves due to the technicality of the training required or because of the large financial investment in apparatus, equipment, and supplies. These teams and their assigned WHFD members for 2022 include:

- **Eastside Technical Rescue Team (ETRT)**
LT Tim Serazin
FF Dan Clayton
FF Nate Hoffmann
FF Dale Cubranich

- **Lake County Hazardous Intervention Team (HIT) (Hazmat)**
LT Lou DiMattia
LT Patty Heller
FF Cindy Sabo

- **Lake County Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Team**
LT Lou DiMattia
FF Dan Clayton

- **Western Lake County Emergency Response Team (ERT)**
FF Dan Clayton

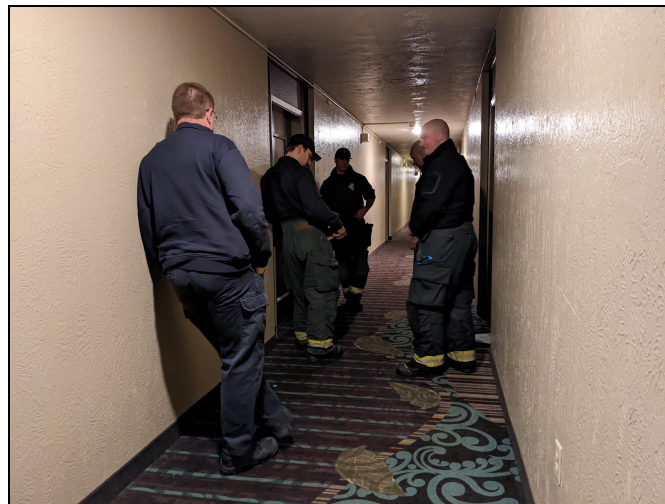
- **Western Lake County Fire Investigation Unit (FIU)**
FF Steve Lucic
FF Cindy Sabo

Training

As mentioned previously, the fire department is the organization of first resort and that of last resort. When people need help, or when they don't know what they need, they call the fire department for assistance both in emergency and non-emergency instances. This requires our members to be cross-trained in many different areas and to be flexible and adaptable to situations when they arise, when things go as planned, and when they don't. In addition to keeping up with the latest technology and trends of society, there are minimum training requirements for special teams membership all in addition to hundreds of hours of required training to maintain state-required certifications. Each year, our members participate in several thousand hours of training. Below is a small sampling of the various disciplines:

State of Ohio Firefighter + EMS certifications (FF 1, FF 2, Paramedic, EMT, etc.)
Hazardous Materials & Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
Technical Rescue (Rope, Water, Ice, Dive, Trench, Confined Space, Collapse, Tower, etc.)
State of Ohio Fire Safety Inspector (FSI) certification + Fire Investigator training
State of Ohio Fire & EMS Instructor certifications
Various National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes
"Blue Card" Incident Command + Situational Awareness Academy training
NFPA Fire Officer (I, II, III, IV)
Tactical Medicine ("SWAT medic")
American Heart Association (CPR, ACLS, PALS, etc.)
ODOT Traffic Incident Management
FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot certification
Various WHFD-specific topics (district familiarization, vehicle operations, protocols, etc.)

Miscellaneous 2022 Training Pics



**"Amateurs train until they get it right;
Professionals train until they can't get it wrong."**



Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is an important but often overlooked, under-prioritized, and under-funded division of any fire department. While not as sensationalized as other aspects of the fire service, fire prevention bureau activities (fire inspections, plan review, code enforcement, etc.) surely contribute to a much safer community- preventing fires before they happen!

In Willoughby Hills, fire prevention and code enforcement are based on several different sources including NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the Ohio Fire Code (based on the ICC International Fire Code), and our local Willoughby Hills municipal fire code. We also work closely with the Lake County Building Department and General Health District in carrying out these responsibilities.

During the 2005 re-structuring of the fire department, WHFD's fire prevention officer position was eliminated leaving fire prevention duties to be handled by on duty shift personnel with limited overtime for special inspections, etc. There are approximately **325 commercial occupancies in Willoughby Hills** that WHFD is responsible for overseeing in terms of compliance with the fire code. This is in addition to any new businesses or facilities being welcomed to the city. Ideally, a solution to fortifying WHFD's fire prevention bureau and its impact on the community can be realized with additional planning and funding.



2022 NFPA Fire Prevention Week Theme

ISO Public Protection Classification

The ISO (Insurance Services Office) Public Protection Classification is an evaluation performed to assess a community's structure fire suppression capabilities and is often used by insurance companies to determine insurance rates for that particular community. A Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) is used to perform the evaluation which consists of the following components:

- Needed Fire Flows (theoretical amount of water needed for fire suppression)
- Emergency Communications (reporting, dispatchers, dispatch systems)
- Fire Department (equipment, staffing, training, station locations, etc.)
- Water Supply (inspection and flow testing of hydrants and available water)

WHFD was graded in 2021 as an **ISO Class 3** (out of 10, Class 1 being the highest achievable). The last increase in WHFD's ISO rating was in 2004 when we improved to a Class 4.



Public Relations & Education

Interaction with the public in a non-emergency setting *before* they ever have to call 9-1-1 is paramount to a successful fire department. Without the support of the community, it is impossible for the fire department to be truly successful in its mission.



Touch-A-Truck



LCSO Central Communications

The Central Communications Division of the Lake County Sheriff's Office ("Central") has been the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Police-Fire dispatch center for Willoughby Hills (and Waite Hill) since 2018. Central's staff of certified public safety telecommunicators are all cross-trained in emergency call-taking, police, fire, and emergency medical dispatching (EMD) and many other disciplines required to do the job proficiently with supervisors receiving additional leadership training & education. Central provides service to over 20 agencies within Lake County and handles almost 270,000 calls for service annually (21,000 fire runs) which includes nearly 75,000 9-1-1 calls with an average answer-time of 4 seconds.

In 2021, WHFD's contract with Central was renewed through the year 2024. Also of significance, Central's performance and capabilities were *instrumental* in WHFD's ISO class rating improvement having earned **9.55 out of 10** possible points for the Emergency Communications portion of the evaluation.

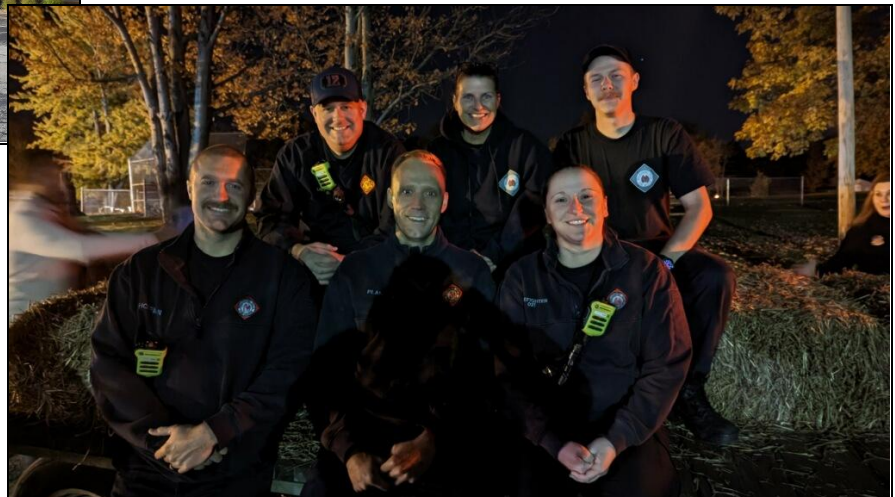
You can view Central's website [here](#).

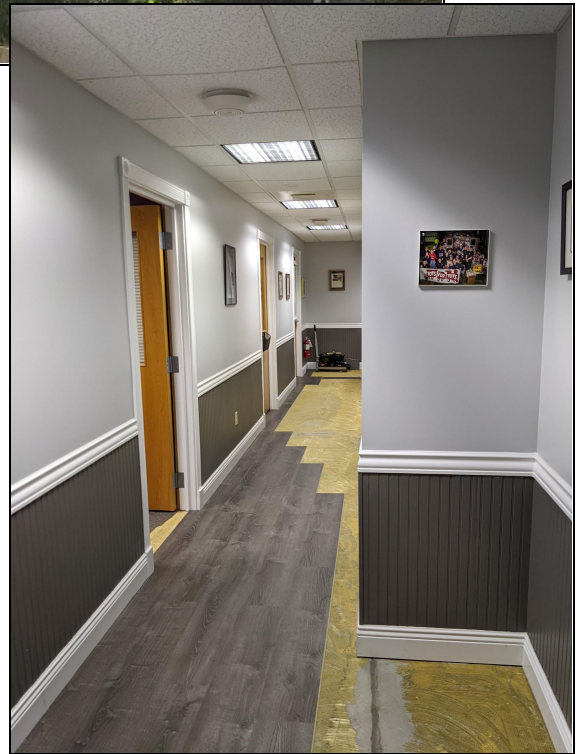


2022 Incidents & Other Photos

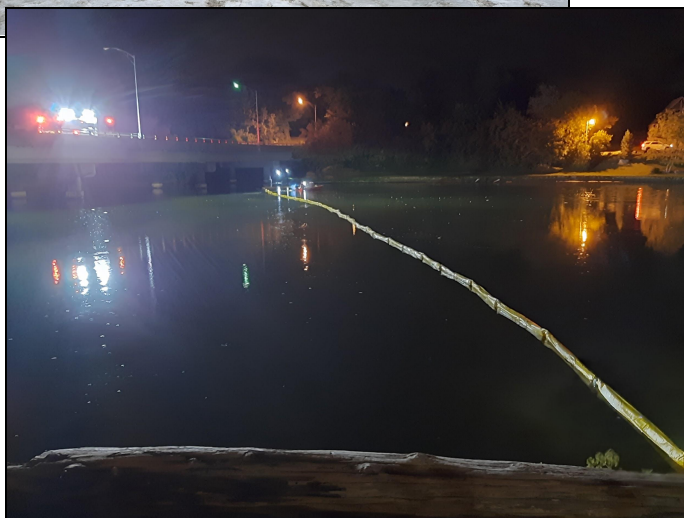


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