

Lima Fire  
Department  
2013  
Annual Report



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4-8-2014

A fire department is only as good as the members serving within its ranks and the Lima Fire Department is blessed with caring, dedicated and skilled professionals that perform beyond expectations and bring honor to our city.

Much has been written about achieving excellence in the fire service but the members of the Lima Fire Department have demonstrated that excellence can be achieved as simply as this: “ Arrive Safely, Perform Admirably and Be Nice”.

This Annual report is a brief summary of actions taken on behalf of and in support of our community by fire department personnel.

Thanks to all of you.

Mark Heffner  
Chief

Forty hour personnel include the Fire Chief, two Deputy Chiefs, Secretary, Fire Investigator, and two Fire Prevention Officers. Both fire Prevention Officers are certified as Inspector II. The Fire Investigator is certified as Investigator II, and is also certified as a law enforcement officer.

### **Personnel Summary**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Chief	1	1
Secretary	1	1
Deputy Chief	2	2
Fire Prevention Inspector	2	2
Arson Investigator	1	1
Battalion Chief	3	3
Captain	3	3
Lieutenant	9	9
Firefighter	60	45

## **Shift Manning**

<b>Central Station</b>	<b>Station # 3</b>	<b>Station #6</b>
1 Battalion Chief	1 Lieutenant	1 Lieutenant
1 Captain	2-3 Firefighters	2-3 Firefighters
1 Lieutenant		
5-10 Firefighters		

## **Staffing**

The Lima Fire Department ended 2013 with sixty-seven total personnel. The authorized strength of the department is eighty-two. Fire suppression activities are conducted by personnel working a 3 platoon schedule. Minimum daily platoon staffing is fourteen, manning three stations. Personnel staffing platoons work 53 hours per work week. Stations 3 & 6 operate with a minimum of three personnel on a daily basis while Central Station operates with a minimum of eight personnel each day.

The Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Arson Investigator, Fire Prevention officers and Secretary work a forty hour schedule.

In addition to performing the normal requirements of their job, the majority of maintenance, repair and remodeling of Lima Fire Department stations is accomplished by the personnel of the Lima Fire Department. Their dedication, desire and collective expertise saves the citizens of Lima from the expense of paying outside contractors for this work. They consistently go beyond their job description to give the citizens of the City of Lima dedicated service and value for their tax dollars.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>M.I.</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>LFD DOE</b>
Craft	Christopher	J.	FF	02/08/1997
Fry	Scott	E.	FF	04/12/1997
Dailey	Shawn	M.	FF	09/13/1997
Rudasill	Mark	E.	FF	02/07/1998
Stewart	Brian	D.	FF	02/07/1998
Welker	Jeremy	A.	FF	02/07/1998
Schultheis	Dale	W.	FF	05/17/1999
McDermitt	Jack	K.	Lt.	10/09/1999
Chapman	Rodney	L.	FF	04/01/2000
Deubler IV	Richard	E.	FF	04/01/2000
Long Jr.	Ralph	W.	FF	04/01/2000
Sroufe	Terry	L.	FF	04/01/2000
Hayes	Erick	T.	FF	07/29/2000
Frew	Gilbert	F.	FF	01/27/2003
Basset	Christopher	L.	FF	01/27/2003
Young	Ryan	E.	FF	04/07/2003
Schwarm	Jason	D.	FF	07/21/2003
Parker	Matthew	S.	FF	07/21/2003
Newland	Derek	C.	FF	07/21/2003
Short	David	L.	FF	08/23/2004
Kavalauskas	Justin	T.	FF	08/18/2008
Groman	Andrew	J.	FF	09/08/2008
Robinson	Richard	L.	FF	09/14/2009
Carter	Kory	M.	FF	04/04/2011
Beck	Douglas	P.	FF	04/04/2011
Allgire	Shawn	M.	FF	04/04/2011
Wierwille	Kale	L.	FF	04/04/2011
Jones	Luke	A.	FF	08/29/2011
Parker	Lee	E.	FF	08/29/2011
Woodruff	Calvin	J.	FF	08/29/2011

The Chief and his secretary, two Deputy Chiefs, two Fire Prevention officers and one Fire Arson Investigator occupy offices on the ground floor of this station. The heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is beginning to show its age. Currently, multiple small humidifiers are being used with very limited success. The existing air humidifier system had been rendered inoperable for some time. It has been evaluated and is beyond repair.

The pneumatic thermostat system is becoming dysfunctional and the HVAC contractor states that it is also close to being obsolete. The advice of the HVAC professionals is that this system should be replaced with a digital system as soon as possible. A digital system would be more accurate and allow for programmed setback temperatures to change the temperature of the different rooms that are occupied at different times of the day. This new system would allow the building to be divided into HVAC zones. Zoning would create a significant energy savings for the city.

The air quality has been monitored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and they recommend use of the labor-management health and safety committee to develop an action plan to implement their recommendations. NIOSH feels that implementing their recommendations would increase the indoor environmental air quality and comfort levels.

The weight room has been remodeled and walls were moved to increase the floor space. New equipment has been purchased through a Federal grant. Weight lifting and cardio equipment was bought for firefighter use.

The television lounge was remodeled. Stadium type seating was created with an upper deck for chairs behind the front row of seats. Removal of the glass wall on the hall side of the room gives better access and opens the room to the hallway.

The bathroom has had some plumbing maintenance performed and the holes in the walls have been fixed. The enclosures for the stalls have been disassembled and sent out for sandblasting and repainting.

The room that was in the past used by the dispatcher has been converted into a computer room. This room has been remodeled with 4 desktop computers for the use of fire suppression personnel. The firefighters can use these computers to complete their on-line continuing education requirements. They can also log onto the internet to research projects and information access.

The roof is showing its age and is in constant need of repair. This problem has an additional cost in the constant need to replace a significant number of ceiling tile damaged by the water leaking through the roof. In the past money has not been in the budget for a new roof. Adding additional insulation should be considered when the next roof is installed. This will help with the overall cost savings by reducing energy consumption.

## Station #6



Number 6 Fire Station began service in 1975 and houses Engine 6. The normal minimum manning at this station is one Officer and two Firefighters.

This station serves the south side of Lima. It has many apartment complexes and a large housing stock which creates a high occupant density. This station also protects the two newest industrial parks within the city boundaries.

This station did not have many improvements in 2013. The one project that was long over due is the asphalt was ground off of the front apron and rear parking lot and they were paved with new blacktop.

This station is set to undergo a name change after the first of the year. This will be known as station 2.



# OPERATIONS

## Arson Bureau

The Arson Bureau contains a staff of one full time investigator working a forty hour work week. The arson investigator is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days-a-week. This allows for investigation of all fires with-in the City of Lima at any time. The arson investigator also handles the upkeep of all records and equipment associated with the Arson Bureau. Two of our suppression personnel that are assigned to the platoon shift schedule are fully qualified investigators. These two firefighters are used to fill in for sick time and vacations when the investigator is taking time off. These trained individuals are also of great assistance as first responders to gain information early in starting an investigation at the fire scene. When they are on regular duty, they are able to begin to gather information at the scene often before the arson investigator arrives.

It is the policy of the Arson Bureau to use education as a tool of prevention in the war against the crime of arson. Any organizations interested in having a speaker address their group are encouraged to contact the Lima Fire Department Arson Bureau for more information.

Service to other agencies and active investigative groups is an important aspect of the Arson Bureau. A healthy working relationship with all area law enforcement agencies as well as other local fire departments and insurance investigators is a must to maintain a bureau that is in touch with the happenings in the City of Lima. The ability to call upon other resources, as well as making the Lima Fire Department Arson Bureau available to others, is a key element to being successful in solving cases that could possibly go beyond the city limits of Lima. The Lima Fire Department Arson Bureau believes that the business of eliminating arson as a crime is something that takes the cooperation of everyone involved, no matter what their specialty or territorial responsibilities are.

### Arson Investigations

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Incendiary	30	33	22	25
Accidental	29	28	26	25
Juvenile	5	4	2	4
Undetermined	10	4	10	7
Total	74	69	60	61

# **Emergency Medical Service**

## **History of Lima Fire Department EMS**

In 1977, the Lima Fire Department enrolled nine firefighters in an EMT-Paramedic course held at Lima Technical College (Rhoades State College). At this time minimum manning was set at twenty-two and the Fire Department maintained one rescue unit which responded to all emergency medical calls within the City. According to department records, from 1977 through 1981 the rescue unit averaged 2150 calls annually and transported patients an average of 260 times per year, with the majority of transports being made by Lima-Allen County Paramedics (then Lima Ambulance Service.) An E.M.S. grant received in 1980 allowed a second rescue unit to be placed in service, which continued to be maintained until late the 1980's, at which time minimum manning was reduced to nineteen on duty personnel. The next year from which statistics are available states that in 1986, the rescue unit responded to 1893 calls for assistance. In 1990, minimum manning was reduced to seventeen, and Fire Department response to emergency medical calls was seen as "needless duplication," with a directive from the city administration stating that Fire Department personnel should "refocus on fighting fires." All emergency medical calls within the City were to be handled by Lima-Allen County Paramedics, with the Fire Department's Rescue responding only on fire calls and to specialized rescue scenes.

In 1998, the Fire Department began a series of incremental steps to increase the level of service provided to the community. Quarterly E.M.S. skill checkoffs, overseen by St. Rita's Medical Center, were first established to ensure that Fire Department personnel maintained the skills necessary to mitigate medical emergencies. Engine companies were outfitted with basic medical equipment, including Automatic External Defibrillators. In 2004 with the aid of medical grants monies from the State of Ohio, additional medical equipment was purchased and placed on each engine company.

In September of 2007 the Fire Department purchased a used Wheeled Coach ambulance from the American Township Fire Department to allow for the transport of medical patients when a private ambulance within the city was not available.

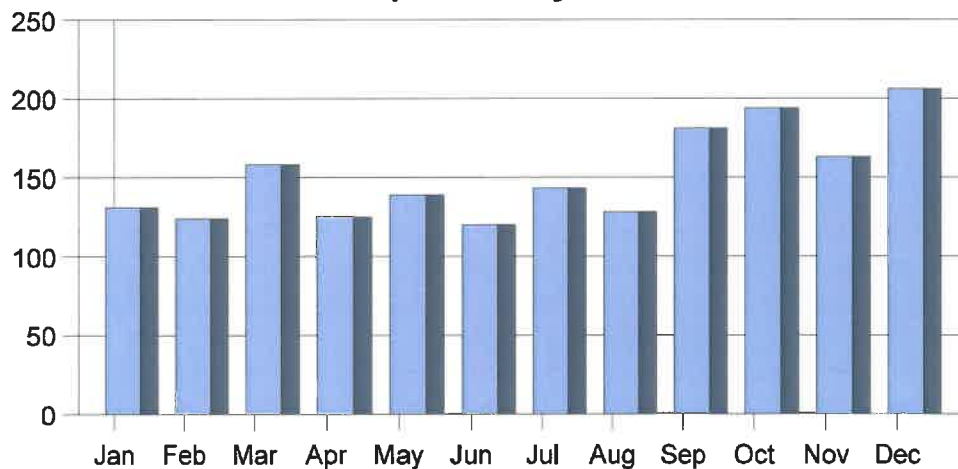
In 2009 the decision was made to allow the Lima Fire Department to provide patient transport on a routine basis. The purchase of a new McCoy Miller ambulance from Burgess Ambulance Sales was approved in late 2009 and delivered on January 20, of 2010. In February of 2010 this ambulance was placed in service and began transporting injured victims from motor vehicle accidents. On March 1, 2010, the Fire Department entered the 911 call rotation with Lima Allen County Paramedics and MedCorp. A second McCoy Miller ambulance was purchased and delivered on October 6, 2010 to replace the 1998 Wheeled Coach ambulance which due to age and mileage was no longer suitable for use as a front line ambulance. Although only one of these ambulances is manned, this allows for a reliable back up unit when the other ambulance is in need of service or repairs, or call volume requires a second ambulance to be placed in service.

The table below lists EMS call volume by station from 2005 through 2013.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central	330	274	421	734	789	1121	1188	1602	1717
Station 3	201	215	206	300	358	469	577	666	706
Station 4	219	204	154	286	343	412	317	N/A	N/A
Station 5	133	100	95	152	176	250	237	N/A	N/A
Station 6	155	135	118	236	280	384	452	624	694
Totals	1038	928	994	1708	1946	2636	2771	2882	3117
EMS Revenue Generated by Soft Billing						\$197,452	\$282,765	\$401,660	\$362,600

\* 2013 Revenue not final

### EMS Transports by Month 2013



The Fire Prevention Bureau was involved once again with Safety City in conjunction with the Lima Police Department. Over **400** children attended the Summer Program at Safety City. The program last one week, with Thursday being Fire Safety Day. The Safety City School program is conducted throughout the year. Over **4500** students attended the fire safety classes, and went through the Fire Safety House. Fire Prevention week was October 6-12. During this week, the bureau visited Eleven elementary schools. Over **475** students were taught the theme for Fire Prevention. The Fire Prevention Bureau contacted nearly **6500** individuals in regards to fire safety.

The bureau presented over **150** classes regarding fire safety in 2013. These classes included the use of fire extinguishers, home and building evacuation, fire safety in the work place, and fire safety for the elderly. We feel these presentations will greatly reduce the number of fires and fire deaths in the City of Lima. The Fire prevention Bureau plans to resume its inspections of buildings in the City of Lima concentrating on downtown commercial occupancies in 2014.

### Major Construction Projects 2013

The following is a list of major construction projects which involved the Fire Prevention Bureau with regard to plans review, installation inspections, and final acceptance tests.

St. Rita's Medical Center:  
Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

Lima Memorial Hospital  
Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

University of Northwest Ohio Athletic Facility  
Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

Old City Prime  
Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

The MET Place  
Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

Lima Central Catholic Prom Promise  
Lima City Schools Kindergarten Registration  
Lima Memorial Hospital Baby Fair  
Lima Public Library Touch-a-Truck  
Marimor School Health Fair  
Safety City Trick or Treat  
Square Fair  
Star Spangled Spectacular  
Unity Elementary Relay for Life

## Hydrants

The Lima Fire Department checks all hydrants located inside the city two times each year. The first check is conducted in May of each year. The hydrants are checked for water leaks under pressure. The threads on all three outlets are oiled. The hydrant is then opened up and flushed out with water and the water in the barrel is pumped out. If any repairs are needed, this information is forwarded to the field services division of the Lima utilities department. If the hydrant is a privately owned hydrant, then the owner is notified of the problem and it is up to them to have the necessary repairs made.

In October and November of each year the hydrants are checked to make sure they are ready for the winter months. They are checked to make sure there is no water in the barrel of the hydrant. If water is found, they are flushed and the water is pumped out of the barrel. If water is found in the first round of checks, they are checked a second time, one to two weeks later. If water is found in the barrel a second time, either the city utility department or the owner is notified for repairs to be made before winter sets in. The fire department is also responsible for painting the hydrants.

The Lima Fire Department is responsible for checking 1321 fire hydrants each year. Each year about 20% of the hydrants are painted. This is approximately 300 hydrants that are painted each year.

Consistent with their mission of community service, the Lima Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership (LACNIP) volunteered to paint fire hydrants within the City of Lima. This relieved LFD personnel of this time consuming task, that takes about 225 man hours per year.

The Lima Fire Department carries a maximum of 1000 gallons of water on each engine. A properly working hydrant system is a top priority. The Lima Fire Department and the field services division employees have created and maintained a top quality water system in the Lima.

When replacing worn out hydrants the field services division has been replacing them with hydrants that have 5" storz fittings. These fittings will make the hydrants more compatible with the equipment of the surrounding fire departments. This will help the citizens of Lima if these departments are called into Lima to help on a mutual aid call.

Using firefighting personnel to check the hydrants saves the city thousands of dollars in personnel costs. It would take one full time employee in the field services division to do this work year around.

## **Information Technologies**

Information Technologies (IT) is responsible for many computer related duties within the Lima Fire Department. Some of these duties include managing Firehouse Software, creating custom reports, designing input forms and data tracking, finding resolutions to software errors, coordinating with data services group on network wide issues and computer technical troubleshooting. Creating statistical studies to aid the department in decision making, managing hardware and software within the department and assisting department members with computer problems are all duties of information technologies.

Officers on the Lima Fire Department are trained in the use of Fire Zone software. Fire Zone is a program that is utilized to make preplan drawings of area businesses and other high hazard areas of the city.

Updating the Fire Department section of the City of Lima's Website is handled by IT. The website includes current activities and personnel within the Lima Fire Department. In the Employee Awards & Recognition section firefighters are recognized for meritorious achievement and employee news is distributed. Information is posted about newly hired employees and other items of interest. In the Rewards and Recognition page past and present Lima Noon Sertoma Club Firefighter of the Year recipients have been listed.

## **Preplans**

Preplans are performed by Lima Fire Department personnel throughout the year on various occupancies in the city. Preplans help to educate the department members on aspects of the occupancy and assist in making firefighting operations as safe and expedient as possible for firefighters, occupants, residents, employees, staff, or bystanders. Preplans are prepared for industrial or business complexes and places with multiple residential living units. These would include businesses, high rise buildings, medical facilities, assisted living and convalescent homes, educational facilities, and apartment buildings.

The types of things generally included in a preplan are as follows:

- Building Construction Type
- Roof Construction
- Support System
- Openings
- Door and Window Assemblies
- Interior Finishes
- Building Services
- Elevators
- Escalators
- Stairwells

