



City of Kent Fire Department

320 S. Depeyster St.
Kent, Ohio 44240

Dave Ruller
Mayor Jerry Fiala
City Council
Franklin Township Trustees

Enclosed is the Kent Fire Department 2019 annual report. This report is broken down into various topics such as stations, run volume, maintenance and apparatus and is meant to give a snapshot of overall departmental activity and expenditures.

One of the largest expenditures in 2019 was the Pierce Heavy Rescue Truck. This new truck and related equipment has improved our ability to provide technical rescue services to the Kent community.

The Kent Fire Department continues to see much change, and 2019 was no exception. The run volume in 2019 continued to be high, matching 2018's record numbers, and our mission has always been the same: *Safeguarding our Community as we serve in a caring, professional, and supportive way.*

Sincerely;

John Tosko
Fire Chief

Fire Stations

Facility	Year Built	Condition
Main Fire Station	1968/2003	Excellent
West Side Fire Station	1949	Fair

The main fire station is almost seventeen years old. The structure has held up well over the past 17 years, however, we are starting to see some problems arise that will have to be taken care of in the near future like the roof and garage doors. The mechanical systems, with proper maintenance will continue to operate efficiently for years to come.

The West Side Fire Station was built in 1949 and houses a front line pumper and a med unit, plus a light vehicle. An addition was built in the early 1990's to add additional living quarters and restroom facilities. This station is still in fair condition despite its age. In 2020, an addition and renovation is planned to add functional space for such things as structural firefighting storage, EMS equipment/supply storage, small tools and equipment storage, and a small addition to the kitchen. The original flat roof will be replaced with a new, modern pitched roof to fix long-standing water leakage problems. Also, the rear parking lot will be paved and an emergency generator will be installed, allowing for continuous operations during power outages.

Fire Department Apparatus

Med Units	Year purchased	Expected Replacement	Condition
Med 1	2016	2026	Excellent
Med 2	2017	2027	Excellent
Med 3	2012	2020	Good
Med 4*	2012	2020	Good

Pumpers	Year purchased	Expected Replacement	Condition
Engine 1	2004	2024	Good
Engine 2*	2004	2024	Good

Ladders	Year purchased	Expected Replacement	Condition
Ladder 1	2014	2034	Excellent
Tower 1	1994	2022	Fair

Rescues	Year purchased	Expected Replacement	Condition
Rescue 1	2019	2034	Excellent
Confined Sp.	1996		Poor
Polaris UTV	2020	2035	Excellent

Other Vehicles	Year purchased	Expected Replacement	Condition
Chief	2013	2023	Excellent
EMS Chase	2016	2026	Excellent
EMS Chase	2016	2025	Excellent
Fire Prevent.	2017	2027	Excellent
Fire Prevent.	2009	2019	Good
Grass Fire*	2004	2024	Good
Dive Truck	2008	2018	Fair

*Denotes Franklin Twp. owned vehicles

John Tosko
Fire Chief
Serving Since 1988

Christina Lillich
Administrative
Assistant

William Myers
Captain Grey Shift
Serving Since 1989

Jamie Samels
Lieutenant
Serving Since 1997

Steve Smith
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1987

Brad McDougal
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1988

Brian Pengal
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2003

James Taylor
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2011

Tim Hinkle
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2013

Jake Robinson
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2014

Caleb Schjeldahl
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2016

Ben Johnson
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2017

Matt Bright
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2018

Dave Moore
Captain Black Shift
Serving Since 1998

Patrick Edwards
Lieutenant
Serving Since 1997

Robert Dietrich
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1988

Paul Bevere
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1990

Shawn Baynes
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1999

Gary Lane
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2003

Jason Peters
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2005

Vince Yost
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2007

Greg Miller
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving since 2009

Robert Jacob
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2015

James Wojkiewicz
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2017

Rich Lynn
Captain White Shift
Serving Since 1990

Craig Peeps
Lieutenant
Serving Since 1998

Jim Ansley
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1988

Scott Simmons
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 1997

Brock Murphy
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2000

Scott Craig
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2003

John Korzenko
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2005

Matt Mathis
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2007

Patrick Paisley
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2009

Tyler Simpkins
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2017

Chris Byrnes
Firefighter/Paramedic
Serving Since 2017

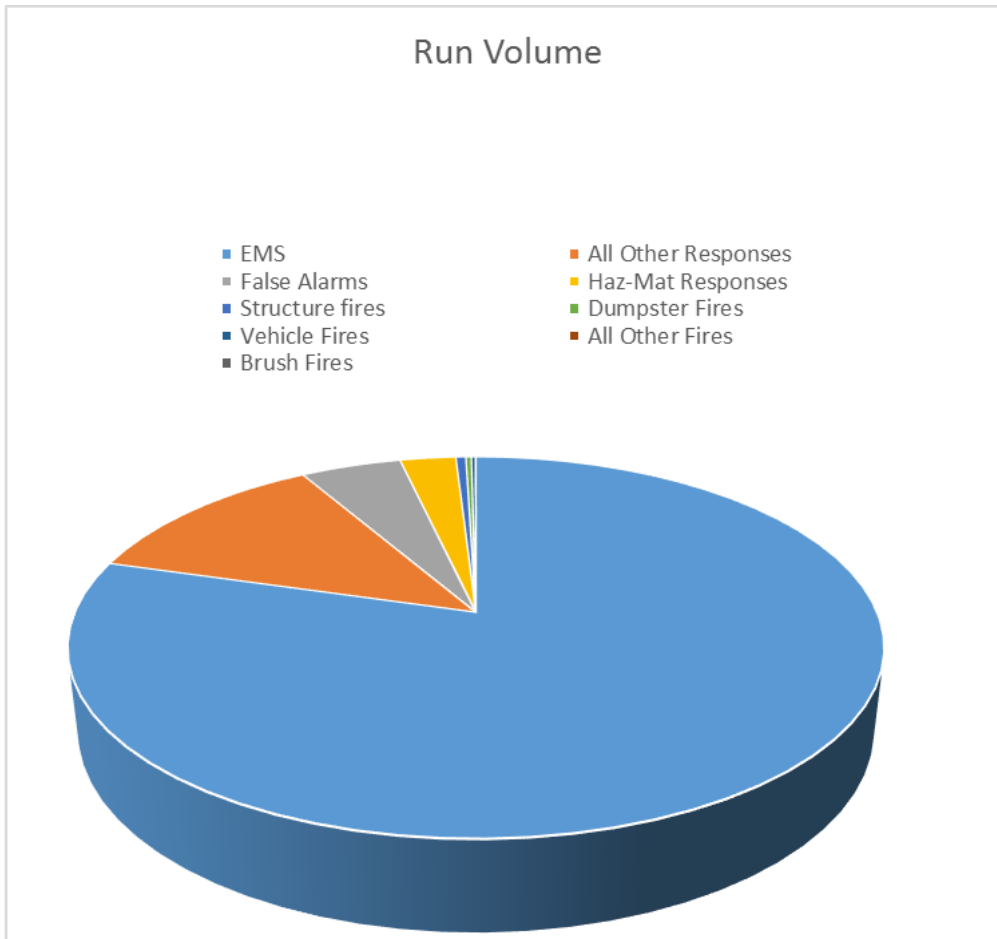
Fire Prevention
Lt. Jeff Coffee
Serving Since 1998

Fire Prevention
Lt. Jeff Tyler
Serving Since 2011

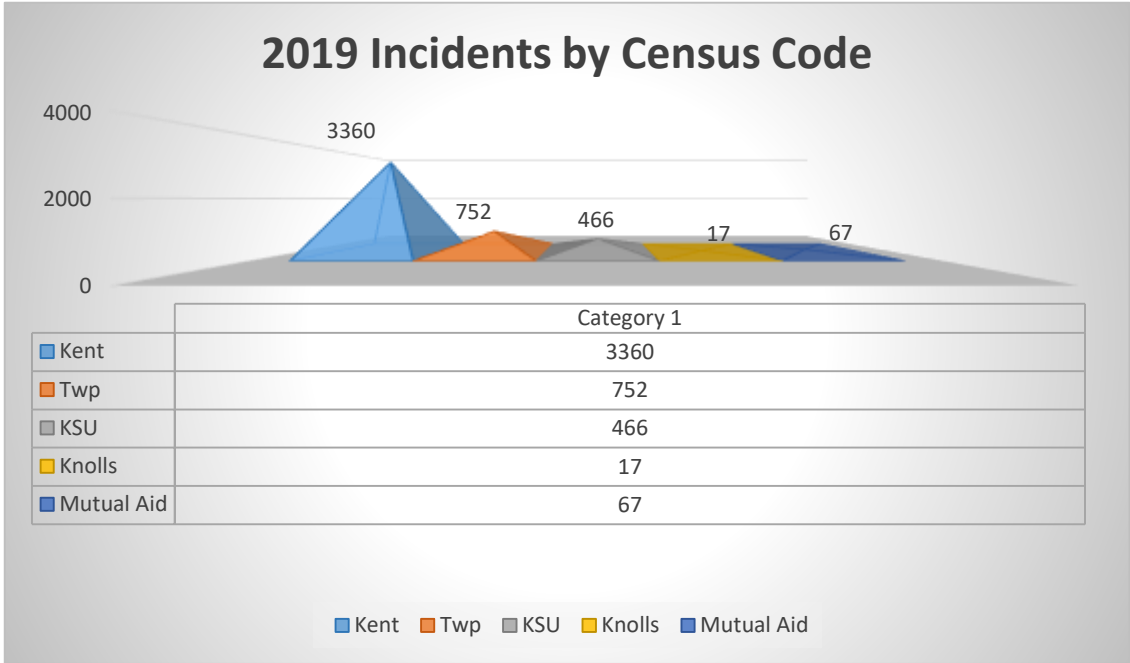
Run Volume

Below is the run volume for the past four years for Kent, KSU, Franklin Township, and the village of Sugar Bush Knolls. As one can see, we have had a steady increase in EMS calls, a 10% increase since 2016. This number is projected to increase. Overall, runs other than EMS have increased 28% since 2016. We continue to strive to keep false alarms at a minimum, however the recent increase in student housing and commercial properties in the City has helped push the false alarms higher. We responded to 28 opiate overdoses in 2019 compared to 20 in 2018, however this number is still much less than earlier years.

Type of Call	2019	2018	2017	2016
EMS/Rescue	3679	3826	3498	3343
Structure Fires	22	25	22	33
Vehicle Fires	9	9	7	10
Brush Fires	0	4	1	0
Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	12	7	15	14
Other Types of Fires	1	8	10	7
False Alarms	220	216	186	190
Hazardous/Haz-Mat Responses	122	129	110	110
All Other Responses	563	400	435	377
 Subtotal	 4628	 4624	 4284	 4084
 Mutual Aid Given	 39	 53	 68	 63
Mutual Aid Received	41	42	34	69
 Grand Total	 4667	 4677	 4352	 4147

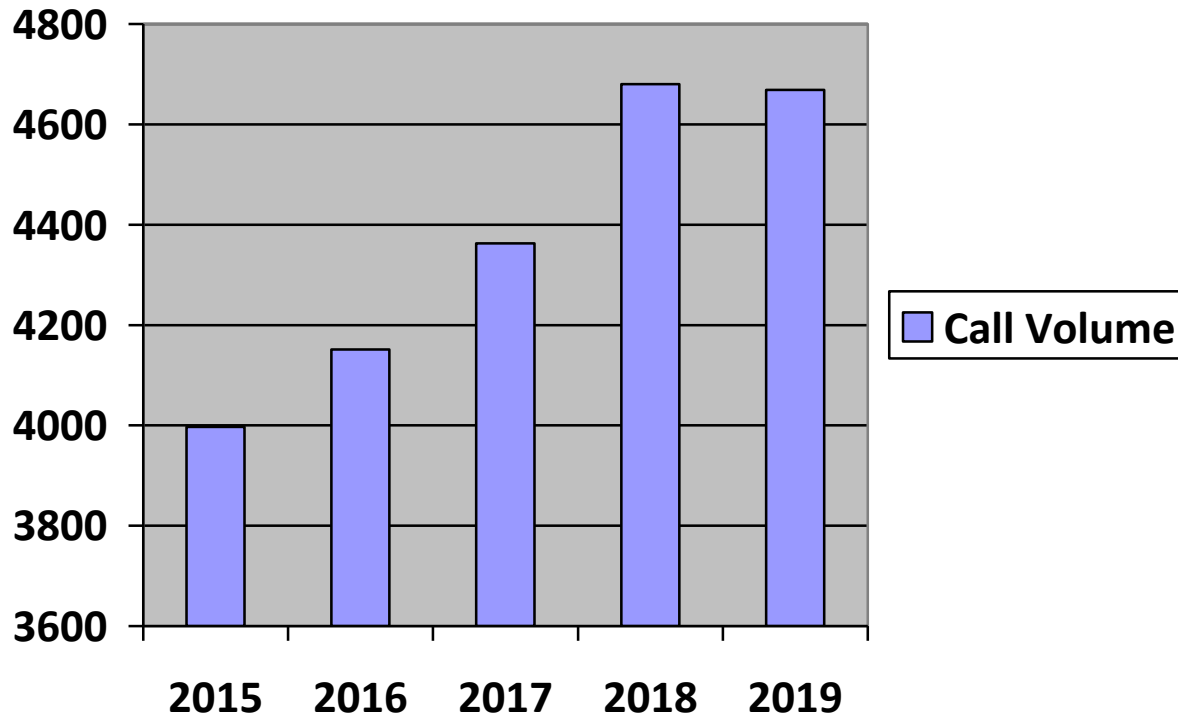


As shown above, EMS responses account for 78.8% of total responses followed by “Other Responses” such as carbon monoxide, service calls, and wires down calls at 12%. False alarms account for 4.7% of responses and hazardous types of calls (gas leaks, wires down calls) account for 2.6% of total responses.



As one can see, the largest amount of emergency runs occur in the City of Kent, followed by Franklin Township and Kent State University. KSU's numbers are separated out only for statistical purposes. Most of our mutual aid responses are to Brimfield Township, Stow, and Ravenna Township.

This last chart tracks the annual over-all run volume for the department. Since 2015, The Kent Fire Department has seen a 17% increase in overall run volume. As indicated above, the vast majority of the increase is in EMS calls. As our population ages, that number is expected to increase. As shown, our overall run volume remained even from 2018.



2019 Projects

In 2019, we saw the beginning of many projects and the continuation of old ones to increase safety and efficiency for firefighters and to better protect the citizens we serve. Some of these projects are:

- 1. Heavy Rescue Truck:** In 2019, the department's first new Heavy Rescue Truck in 27 years was ordered. Delivery of this truck was in March of 2019. New rescue equipment such as Hurst "Jaws of Life", support struts, new rescue boat motor, and power tools have all been placed on the truck.
- 2. PulsePoint:** As you may recall, PulsePoint is a CPR smart phone app, designed to improve sudden cardiac arrest survival rates. The Project,

- funded by University Hospitals is running smoothly and is generating alerts.
3. **Lexipol:** Currently, we are working with nation-wide company called Lexipol to re-write our policies and procedures. These policies, though local, are vetted against local, state and federal laws.
 4. **Polaris Ranger UTV:** In early January 2020, we took delivery of a Polaris Utility Vehicle. This vehicle will allow us to enhance our response times and capabilities to certain areas currently not accessible by regular Medic Units. These areas include parks, hike & bike trails, downtown events, and rail lines. This unit has emergency lights and sirens which enable it to respond quickly across town to enter these “off-road” areas.

Maintenance

Vehicle Maintenance

Our apparatus fleet is in good shape compared to many other fire departments in the area thanks to a capital budget plan that allows us to keep up with apparatus replacement. All four of our ambulances are in excellent conditions and have identical configurations. The main concern continues to be the 1994 100' Ladder truck. This truck is projected to be replaced in 2022. As newer ambulances and fire apparatus such as the new Heavy Rescue are placed into service, the annual maintenance costs have lowered. In 2019, the Fire Department expensed \$26,926 compared to \$28,998 in overall vehicle maintenance in 2018, and over \$30,000 in 2017.

Building Maintenance

As stated above, Station One is now seventeen years old and is beginning to show its age at several levels. The HVAC system including the boiler is the biggest concern for 2020. We expensed \$30,355 on building maintenance in 2019, mostly at Station One compared to \$33,588 in 2018.

Training

EMS Training

EMS training is provided to insure members are provided the best opportunity to achieve the Continuing Medical Education (CME) required for EMS certifications. University Hospital (UH) continues to provide monthly medical training. Collectively, the Firefighter/Paramedics trained 1,605 hours in EMS continuing medical education in 2019 for an average of 44.6 hours per medic.

Fire Training

Monthly fire training on core competencies was completed for the fifth year in a row. These skills include: quick SCBA donning, MAYDAY operations, search & rescue, fire pump operations, aerial ladder & hose line operations and forcible entry. Collectively Firefighters trained 1,173 hours in 2019 in firefighter education in 2019 for an average of 32.5 hours per firefighter. Maintaining these vitals skills increases safety while improving capabilities when called upon to in an emergency. The fire department also once again prioritized training in rural water movement operations utilizing the recently installed “Dry Hydrants” which were installed in West Twin Lake. These “Dry Hydrants” are fed directly by the lakes and provide the residents of that area much improved water flow for firefighting operations.

Specialized Training

Specialized training includes HAZ-MAT, search & rescue and water rescue. Members are trained to the operations level in each of these disciplines. Select members then gain technician level training as part of each County team. These teams train an average of four hours each month. With the purchase of our new heavy rescue truck and new specialized rescue equipment, the department hosted multiple advanced rescue classes in vehicle extrication and confined space rescue.

The significant rash of river rescues that began early in the summer, created a need for department members to evaluate each incident and to train in areas that more training was needed. Specifically, the change in river water level during the incidents created different scenarios that crews needed to adjust to. The department created action plans for each of these different scenarios and trained on each. One plan involved creating fast response gear bags, utilizing gear and equipment that the department already had. These bags were organized and designed to insure that crews were able to quickly construct a high line across the river during shallow water rescues. This planning and training paid off when crews had to conduct a rescue in the dark to rescue a young female swimmer.

In the fall, nearly every member of the department completed a river orientation trip down the Cuyahoga River, from Riverbend to the Middlebury Road boat ramp. This training allowed each member to navigate through each portion of the river and to orient themselves to the numerous hazards the river can pose. Access points along this entire stretch of river were identified and recorded for future pre-planning of river rescue operations.

Fire Prevention

Introduction

The Kent Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed with two full-time and one part-time Fire Safety Inspectors. The part-time inspector is supported by Franklin Township, and concentrates activities in Franklin Township. Both full-time Inspectors are also Certified Professional Firefighters and EMT-Paramedics. It should be noted that while assigned to the Fire Prevention Office, the staff is required to maintain training and continuing education in all certification levels.

Services we provide

As part of our daily operations we perform fire safety inspections for commercial businesses, Kent State University (new construction and renovations), Greek Housing, and foster/adoption homes throughout the City of Kent. In addition, we provide workplace fire safety education training, and “live burn” fire extinguisher training for businesses in Kent and Franklin Twp. We work extensively with local business and industry to assist them in developing their emergency action plans as well as life safety plans.

Our fire safety education program is focused on all school aged children from Pre-K through 4th grade. This includes Child Care Centers, LEAP, and Head Start programs. As part of our program, we include our “Hazard House” which helps kids gain a visual understanding of the importance of fire hazards in their homes, smoke detectors, and knowing two ways out. Our fire safety education program begins in the summer with Kent Safety School and goes throughout the month of October, which is Fire Prevention Month across the United States.

In addition, we partner with KSU Fire Safety to provide fire education to KSU Greeks, and students living in dorms. This typically goes on throughout the school year and includes the annual Greek Fire Academy, an all-day educational event for Fraternity and Sorority Leaders.

Special Events

Fire Prevention also inspects all fireworks shows both on and off campus throughout the year. We inspect outdoor vendors throughout the festival season and conduct occupancy (overcrowding) inspections for downtown bars on

targeted weekends throughout the year, including St. (and Fake) Patrick's Day, May Day, and Halloween.

Fire Safety Inspections Completed: Total of 1,144 inspections in 2019 compared to 1,095 in 2018 for both the City and Township

In Summary

2019 was again a fairly busy year, with almost 4,700 emergency runs performed. Continued attempts are made to keep these numbers down through patient follow-ups to ensure they are getting the best and most appropriate care possible.

We have a vision statement which is meant to guide us as we make decisions throughout the course of the year:

The Kent Fire department will continue to develop new partnerships and programs to increase the safety of the community by providing means to improve training and education, improve emergency response and develop new strategies to solve problems while keeping true to our values and mission.