

MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP - DIVISION OF FIRE

MARCH 2011



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We welcome you to our first, of what we intend to be a quarterly, newsletter that will allow us to keep you up to date with what is going on with your fire department. Since 1944 the Mifflin Township-Division of Fire has provided Fire, Rescue, and EMS services to Mifflin Township and the residents of Gahanna. We have identified that we need to be more informative to the citizens that we protect. This newsletter will serve as a guide to the resources that we provide daily, an avenue for us to promote fire safety tips, and a schedule of upcoming events related to your fire department. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to call or stop by any of your firehouses.

Fire Chief L. James DeConnick

Administrative Offices

485 Rocky Fork Boulevard
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
(614) 471-0542

Station 131

475 Rocky Fork Blvd.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
(614) 471-8533

Station 132

2459 Agler Road
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 471-3611

Station 133

501 Beecher Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
(614) 855-5871

Station 134

422 McCutcheon Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
(614) 471-0568

More than Fighting Fire

The term Fire Department fails to capture the multitude of services provided to this diverse and populated City and Township. In addition to responding to fire emergencies such as fires, smoke in buildings and automatic alarms, the Division of Fire has evolved into a multi-disciplinary agency capable of responding to and managing a multitude of community emergencies. Below is a sampling of what our firefighters are prepared to respond to on a daily basis in addition to fire related emergencies.

Non-Fire Related Emergencies

- Natural /Propane gas leaks and odors
- Down power lines
- Explosive/bomb incidents
- Lightning strikes
- Fuels spills and leaks

Medical Emergencies

- Treatment of Cardiac and Pulmonary problems
- Treatment of Stroke
- Specialized Pediatric Care
- Specialized Trauma Care

Rescue Incidents Involving

- Motor vehicle accidents
- Water and ice
- Machinery and industrial equipment
- Structural collapse
- High angles and confined spaces

Community Disasters

- Aircraft incidents
- Domestic violence events
- Large-scale incidents
- Hazardous material spills
- Environment related incidents

Community Service

- Well-being checks
- Animal rescue
- Lock-outs
- Carbon monoxide checks
- Foreign odors
- Indoor flooding
- Securing utilities

Community Events

- High population density events
- Athletic events



THE MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTER

As a member of a dedicated team, our professionally trained, highly-skilled career firefighters are the core ingredient to the success of the fire, rescue, and EMS services provided to the residents, businesses and visitors to Mifflin Township and the City of Gahanna. Our firefighters are cross-trained to provide a consistent level of service to our population regardless of the nature of the emergency. Each firefighter, as a member of a company (team), is assigned a specific task on the fire ground. Time is the most important factor in the preservation of life and property. By placing highly-trained firefighters in specific roles it allows for multiple tasks to be completed simultaneously.



Division of Fire—Operations

The Division of Fire maintains a fleet of 18 vehicles. Each of these vehicles has a specific role in either the suppression of fire, providing emergency medical care, or aiding in rescue operations. In addition to their specific role, each apparatus is equipped to allow for our cross-staffed personnel to function appropriately for any incident. For example, all of our fire apparatus are ALS (advanced life support) equipped vehicles which can treat and stabilize patients prior to the arrival of an ALS transport vehicle (ambulance). These apparatus are maintained daily by on duty firefighters and are routinely serviced by outside vendors specializing in their field. It is through this strict maintenance program we are able to ensure that our apparatus are ready for emergency response. As with any vehicle, our apparatus are prone to damage and the wear that comes with increased age and mileage.

The Mifflin Township Division of Fire is staffed with 72 career line-firefighters and line-supervisors who, through a rotation of three 24 hour shifts consisting of a minimum of 21 firefighters each, operate three paramedic fire engines, one paramedic ladder truck, one paramedic heavy rescue, and one paramedic transport vehicle (ambulance) every day. Supplementing operational staff are two career fire and life safety inspectors and three fire administrators.

While we have succeeded in the past with our current staffing levels, our needs have grown due to more calls for service and our population requires additional ALS ambulances in service to meet demands, ensuring that the response to emergency incidents is not only appropriate but consistent with our response time goals. In addition, we fall short in some areas when compared to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standard for the organization and deployment of fire suppression, emergency medical and special operations to the public by career fire departments.

As mentioned above, our need for ALS ambulances has grown. Gahanna ranks last among comparable central Ohio communities.

1.	Grove City	-	3	full-time ALS ambulances and 1 part-time ALS ambulance
2.	Pickerington	-	3	full-time ALS ambulances and 1 part-time ALS ambulance
3.	Westerville	-	3	full-time ALS ambulances
4.	Dublin	-	3	full-time ALS ambulances
5.	Hilliard	-	3	full-time ALS ambulances
6.	Gahanna	-	1	full-time ALS ambulance and 1 part-time ALS ambulance

A full-time ALS ambulance is defined as an ambulance that is staffed by Paramedics 24/7. A part-time ALS ambulance is defined as an ambulance that is staffed by Paramedics that are normally assigned to a fire apparatus and place that apparatus out of service in order to staff the ambulance.



ANSWERING YOUR CALL

Mifflin Township Firefighter-Paramedics are ready to answer your call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Our response times to your emergencies are consistent with national averages and we are working to exceed those averages. In 2010, the Mifflin Township Division of Fire was once again one of the busiest fire departments in central Ohio, responding to over 8,000 calls for help. This call volume is consistent with the total number of incidents from the three previous years. From January 2007 –December 2009 the Division of Fire responded to a total of 23,439 calls for help. 6,751 of those calls were fire related emergencies while 16,688 were calls for medical related emergencies.

It's 3am...

You wake up to a room filled with smoke and heat pushing you to the floor...

Your family is sleeping down the hall...

Did they get out? How will you?

How close are YOUR firefighters?



be sure to check your smoke detectors monthly

MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF FIRE

find out more at:

www.mifflin-oh.gov



A letter to Residents:

As a resident of the City of Gahanna you are also a Mifflin Township resident, and as Township residents, you and I will be deciding on the outcome of a fire/emergency medical services operating levy in May. A levy needed to staff a full-time paramedic ambulance on the east side of Gahanna and to maintain services for the next five to seven years. My aim is to provide you with accurate information as you prepare to make your decision. It seems that public employee wages are the main concern for citizens which is where I would like to draw your attention.

What is it worth to you to have the *peace of mind* that comes with having skilled firefighter-paramedics just a few minutes away? A starting full-time Mifflin firefighter makes \$9.88 per hour and a 25 year veteran firefighter tops out at \$21.48 per hour. Ninety-four percent of Mifflin Township firefighters are also paramedics and are paid an additional .86 cents per hour. These wages are on the low end of the median for Ohio firefighter wages as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor. Mifflin Township firefighter wages are historically between ten and twelve percent below those of their peers in comparable fire departments.

Another citizen concern is automatic pay increases and binding labor agreements. Wage increases are not guaranteed or automatic, nor are cost-of-living adjustments. Mifflin Township firefighters receive modest increases based on two or more of the following:

- ◆ The availability of funds
- ◆ Meeting performance benchmarks
- ◆ Obtaining certifications or licensure
- ◆ Being promoted (or assigned to a technical position)

Mifflin Township's firefighters and dispatchers are not covered by a labor contract yet they work closely with our leadership to ensure a balanced budget. As a small organization, employees are responsible for a portion of medical insurance premiums in addition to any required co-pay for medical and pharmacy services. It is also important to note that Mifflin Township firefighter's wages have been frozen since 2008. The fact is that Mifflin Township firefighter-paramedics, "*Gahanna's firefighter-paramedics*", are a true value.

Gahanna police protects those of us who reside in the city so we do not vote on Mifflin Township police levies. Mifflin Township and the City of Gahanna collaborate in many ways to ensure that residents are serviced efficiently and effectively. Eliminating duplicated emergency services in 1944 is only one example of a longstanding effort to reduce taxpayer burden. I encourage more agencies to follow our lead. Remember that firefighters are also taxpayers with families who are also impacted by economic conditions and share your same concerns. The point is that our firefighters and Trustees are doing their part to use your tax dollars responsibly.

The upcoming levy is not the result of poor management or high firefighter wages. Our funding system requires us to return to the polls every four to six years to explain how your dollars are spent and to request funds for the next budget cycle. For us, this levy is about staffing fire engines and paramedic ambulances as cost effectively as possible. I hope you will choose to support this effort knowing that we are doing our best to keep costs down while providing excellent services.

-Deputy Chief Frederick Kauser



Prevention/Education Events

March 22nd	-	Pre-K education	-	Station 131
April 5th	-	Pre-K education	-	Gahanna Christian Academy
April 6th	-	Pre-K education	-	Gahanna Christian Academy
April 8th	-	Health Fair	-	Gahanna Middle School East
April 20th	-	Health Fair	-	Gahanna-Lincoln High
May 4th	-	Safety Town sign up	=	Lincoln Elementary
May 7th	-	Safety Town sign up	-	Lincoln Elementary
June 17th-19th-		Jazz and Blues Festival	-	Creekside-Gahanna

Upcoming Events

November 6th (2am)	-	Daylight Savings Time Begins, Remember to Change the Batteries in Your Smoke Detectors
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