

# Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Madeira & Indian Hill Fire District is to deliver to the citizens we protect the highest level of fire and emergency medical services, which will make a positive difference in the outcome of an emergency.

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**OFFICERS**  
STEPHEN C. OUGHTERSON, Chief  
FRANCISCO CACERES, Captain  
JOHN LYNCH, Captain  
KEVIN SCHEUERMAN, Lieutenant  
PATRICK McCALL, Lieutenant  
BRANDON LINNE, Lieutenant

**EMERGENCY CALLS ONLY: 9•1•1**

March 11, 2020

Board of Trustees  
Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District  
Mr. Robert Gehring, President

Dear Mr. Gehring,

As the ninth fire chief of your Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District, I am honored to present the 2019 Annual Report. Fire Chief Stephen Ashbrock retired on July 1, 2019 after a long and distinguished career, the last of which was spent at MIHJFD for 19 years. Chief Ashbrock led the department through a number of significant changes over the course of his career including hiring a number of new career members, building two fire stations, modernizing apparatus and other equipment and developing personnel to adapt and lead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I began my career at MIHJFD on July 1<sup>st</sup> after a challenging selection process led by the MIHJFD Board of Trustees. The transition of the Chief role was smooth and quite festive, in fact. There were Fourth of July festivities and retirement parties for the first two weeks of my tenure. While it was fun getting to know the community and its citizens, it was time to get to the business of leading the Fire Department.

We completed negotiations with Local 2236 and signed a three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement and developed the 2020 Operating Budget. The cities approved the budget for 2020 which included converting three part-time Firefighter positions into Career positions. Smaller cities have had to find ways to hire and retain Career employees due to the reduction of part-time personnel available and we are competing with other departments in the region for personnel. This investment in Career staffing has increased our average daily staffing and provides our citizens with the best personnel in the region

Our work force is some of the finest individuals I've been able to work with. Our crews are young, energetic, enthusiastic and athletic personnel which will meet or exceed your expectations in customer service and emergency service delivery.

I am proud to call MIHJFD my new home and hope to fulfill the mission, vision and values of this fine organization.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Oughterson  
Fire Chief



# Organizational Chart





# Personnel

Our single most important asset is our personnel. At the conclusion of 2019, the part-time staff personnel numbered 11. Our career staff increased by four personnel as a result of the cities approval to transition three part-time positions to three career positions. Our Career staff is now at 21 personnel.

## 2019 Full-time New Personnel



Alex Brahm  
Kurtis Mahan  
Devin Moore  
Steve Oughterson  
Joe Placke



## 2019 Part-time New Personnel

Mark Feldmann  
Robert Moore  
Ben Rood  
Dan Sanders  
Zakk VanNottingham

## 2019 Years of Service Awards

Nick Stiens	5 Years
Taylor Hester	5 Years
Pat McCall	10 Years
Toney Sanders	10 Years
Sara Jacob	5 Years
Dianne Donlan	35 Years

## 2019 Retired/Resigned Personnel

Steve Ashbrock (CHIEF)  
Jon Furbush (PT)  
Dan Graham (FT)  
Chris Higgins (PT)  
Drew Marston (PT)  
Robert Moore (PT)

These career positions are referred to as Position 6. In 2019, position 7 was approved by both cities in and those personnel will be hired in the first quarter of 2020. The 4<sup>th</sup> career position occurred as a result of career FF/

Paramedic Dan Graham's resignation to work for Cincinnati Fire Dept. We continue to hire part-time personnel whenever possible, but it is interesting to note that even as the available positions decrease, we still can't keep up with the demand. There are two positions (Position 7 and 8) that create 17,400 hours available for part-time firefighters per year; however, we were only able to cover 8,650 hours. This demand for personnel drives our transition towards an all-career department. The district continues to track Average Daily Staffing and with the additional career personnel, we finished 2019 with an Average Daily Staffing of seven. This number represents the number of personnel on Fire and EMS equipment at both stations available to respond to incidents.

In 2019, we celebrated the well-deserved retirements of two of our longest serving members. Chief Steve Ashbrock retired after 19 years of service to Madeira and Indian Hill.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, one can only imagine the memories implanted in the midst of 42 years in the fire service. Those memories depict images he would love to forget including tragedy and sorrow while others he will cherish the rest of his life, from the impact of all the good deeds and service to the community. The Chief's vision to improve the district in the course of his career was fulfilled as he left a fine organization, including an outstanding staff, updated equipment and apparatus in addition to the specification and construction of two state of the art facilities.



Dr. Phil Oblinger retired after serving as our Medical Director for 35 years. We welcomed Dr. Rachel Matthews as our new Medical Director. Dr. Matthews grew up in Indian Hill and continues to invest in her hometown. She is an ER Physician at Bethesda North Hospital and has worked with Dr. Oblinger which is what led him to suggest her as his replacement.

## The Fire Department Family

The fire department is a unique place to work because of the long shifts together and time away from immediate family. Our fire department family, as we like to call it, gets together several times a year to bring the traditional family unit together with the fire department family. The following events were held in 2019 for those occasions: Annual Meeting, Fall Picnic, Children's Breakfast with Santa and the Fire Department Christmas Party.

The District held the first annual retiree lunch at Station 64 just before the holidays. Past members with service to the District dating all the way back to the 1950's were present to share stories and learn about current operations and administration of the fire department.



2019 Retiree Lunch



Breakfast with Santa!



2019 Christmas Party

## IAFF Local 2236

We are very proud of all our personnel for their day to day activity and their role in improving life for our citizens. However, our career personnel involved in the IAFF Local 2236 seem to go above and beyond to help in our community. In 2019, this is no more evident than highlighting some of the activities that our personnel initiated to give back to the community outside the traditional role of our firefighters on duty.

For 35 years, Local 2236 has organized and executed the Madeira and Indian Hill Firefighters Charity Bowling Tournament. They raised \$3,500 from the event, which they donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). During the Madeira Street Dance they raised \$250 towards the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati. They also supported the Pink Ribbon Girls by raising \$800 from pink t-shirt sales. As if that weren't enough, the local supported a Madeira family after their house fire, by donating \$500 for a Target Gift Card.



2019 MDA Check Presentation

## Health and Wellness

This year the JFD was fortunate enough to make some significant upgrades to the equipment in each station's exercise facilities. Both stations received a new spin bike which provides an excellent cardiovascular challenge. In addition, we took delivery of a new multiple cable functional trainer at both locations. This device provides the user with a wide array of resistance training opportunities in every plane of movement. We also received new weighted vests to train with. They are adjustable up to 75 lbs, and can be worn during physical training to simulate the extra weight of our personal protective and SCBA gear. The Indian hill station was able to replace an aging weight rack that was showing some wear. It is very sturdy and now provides a level of safety comparable to the weight rack at the Madeira station.

On duty crews regularly take advantage of this equipment by making time for fitness endeavors both as groups and individually. Many members even come in early before their shift, and/or stay after to utilize the facilities. The JFD recognizes that optimal performance is dependent upon our ability to meet the physical demands of the job that we are trusted to do.

As a result of our efforts in the gym, on the training ground and at the kitchen table, our firefighters are a healthy group. In fact, we reduced insurance costs to the district due to the lack of significant claims and general health / wellness of our group. Bureau of Worker's Compensation premiums also reduced for the same reasons.



# Budget

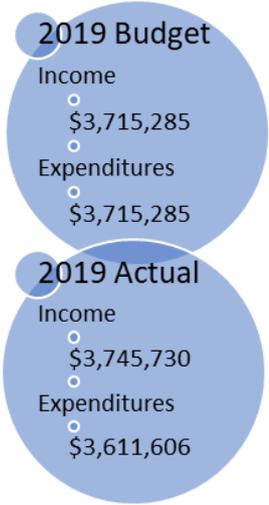
Overall spending in 2019 was recorded as 2.6% under budget. Personnel costs for salaries and benefits accounted for most of our expenditures which was approximately 80% of our total budget. Bargaining Unit employees received a 3% raise in accordance with year three of three of the Local 2236 IAFF contract. Our part-time employees and administrative staff received a 3% raise to their hourly rates as well.

Capital purchases in 2019 included the replacement of the 2008 Dodge Durango. A Chevrolet Tahoe SSV was purchased and upfitted with equipment including radios, lights, sirens and command box. The vehicle was received in December and will be placed in-service in early 2020. The 2020 Tahoe SSV will be utilized as the Chief's Command Vehicle. The 2011 Tahoe will continue service to the department as the Captain's Vehicle.



Other significant purchases included a reconditioned LifePak, fitness equipment replacements and upgrades, turnout gear and small tool replacements for our primary fire apparatus. We also purchased a machine called a PortaCount SCBA mask fit testing machine, which is required for each member on an annual basis. Small tools purchased included battery operated LED portable lights to replace aging halogen lights. We also purchased small battery operated tools such reciprocating saws and trimmers for hydrant maintenance.

We continue to utilize Medicount to collect income generated by EMS user fees. User fees are collected and then credited back to the cities equally. Last year, we billed 707 EMS details and collected \$230,648.34 in revenue from those charges. As the principle payer continues to be Medicare, our amount collected is down in proportion to the number of people transported to the hospital. We do not bill for non-transport runs. The numbers below reflect only billable runs, not total dispatched runs.



## 2017

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	284
ALS	398
ALS 2	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>692</b>
Revenue	\$253,107.50
Avg. \$365.76 / Run	

## 2018

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	364
ALS	328
ALS 2	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700</b>
Revenue	\$257,025.80
Avg. \$367.18 / Run	

## 2019

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	366
ALS	336
ALS 2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>707</b>
Revenue	\$230,648.34
Avg. \$326.24 / Run	



# Training

Last year was an exciting one for the training division of MIHJFD. In 2019, we logged a total of 2906 training hours. This was an increase of 531 hours from 2018.

We transitioned from Centrelearn to FireRescue1 Academy for our online training and training record management system. FireRescue1 provides us with the opportunity to complement the hands-on sessions and lectures provided by the training division. We completed about 90 hours of online EMS and Fire training, which was a decrease from 272 in 2018. One of the reasons for this decrease is the transition period from Centrelearn to FireRescue1. Another factor is that we have shifted the focus to hands-on

training and non-virtual lectures instead of relying too heavily on online training.



MIHJFD entered in a contract with Loveland-Symmes FD for the use of the fire training tower in Loveland. We participated in multiple live fire evolutions with Milford FD, Miami TWP FD, and Goshen FD for a total of 156 hours of live fire training. In 2018, we only conducted 41 hours of live fire training. Live fire training provides firefighters with realistic conditions in a safe environment.



Another significant training event that occurred 2019 was several multi-company drills with Miami Township, Milford, Terrace Park at a unique acquired structure. The structure was a strip mall which allowed training in flat roof ventilation, forcible entry, rapid intervention, search and rescue and hose line advancement. Forcible entry training was especially unique in that we utilized techniques that can only be practiced in a destructive way and hard to simulate in a lab type atmosphere.

MIHJFD also developed a 48-hour EMS refresher course. Forty-eight-hour refreshers are one of the methods paramedics can recertify for their Ohio Paramedic and National Registry licenses. This requires a lot of planning and coordination. In the past, our personnel had to go to other departments to receive this training. Now, we are pleased to offer it at MIHJFD. Refreshers also require the expertise of outside instructors, including physicians, nurses and other experts in multiple medical fields. Our department also had various participants on the FDIC conference in Indianapolis. FDIC brings experts of our field to one conference, providing lectures, workshops and opportunities to speak to vendors about new products and technology in the marketplace.

In July of 2019, MIHJFD members joined Madeira PD and other police departments to participate in a mass casualty shooting drill. This was a great opportunity to practice Rescue Task Force (RTF) skills and cross-train with police and fire departments. As we train with our public safety partners, we assisted with “Stop The Bleed” programs at Indian Hill Schools.



In August, our paramedics participated in a large-scale mass casualty drill that included fire departments from all over the region working with multiple government agencies to treat and transport 300 patients. The drill was coordinated by multiple agencies through the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency.





# EMS Operations

EMS is one of our primary missions, and a large part of what we do every day. In fact, 2019 ended with our highest EMS run volume ever, narrowly surpassing 2018. That is why we are constantly looking to improve our EMS service delivery. In addition to intense and comprehensive training, we made several other improvements to our operations during 2019.



We were able to add a Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator to our EMS support vehicle. This device matches those carried on both of our medic units and the engine. It is capable of performing diagnostic EKG's, as well as pacing and defibrillating the hearts of patients experiencing cardiac emergencies.

We upgraded some airway and breathing equipment to provide our paramedics with the best and most current tools possible with which to aid our customers.

As our new Medical Director, Dr. Matthews acclimates to her role with us, she has become more involved in Quality Assurance of the care we provide by reviewing critical incidents with the crews, providing training on various medical topics, and she attended a seminar in Columbus for Medical Directors that was given by the Ohio Division of EMS.



Perhaps the most valuable measure of an EMS team's effectiveness is the outcome of their patients. Our crews are routinely called to help people on their worst day. Unfortunately, sometimes that means that someone is suffering from a sudden and unexpected cardiac arrest. More times than not, this situation is life-ending; but occasionally, the crews' hard work and skilled treatment pays off and that person survives an otherwise fatal circumstance and lives to walk out of the hospital. This was true for one 57 year-old female from Indian Hill during the summer of 2019.

Unit 2's crew was called to her home where she was found to be in cardiac arrest. There they expertly administered emergency cardiac care including chest compressions, ventilations, oxygen, multiple electrical shocks, IV, and several rounds of various medications. Their treatment was successful, and the medic unit rushed her to Jewish hospital. By the time of arrival at the ER the patient had a pulse and was attempting to take some spontaneous breaths. After spending two weeks in the ICU and undergoing surgery to implant a pacemaker and internal defibrillator, she was able to return home to begin the next chapter of her life. Congratulations Toney Sanders, Taylor Hester, Alex Brahm, Mike Hoying, Lt. McCall, and Capt. Caceres. Training and teamwork at it's BEST!

EMS calls comprise of 68% of all incidents we complete in the District. The calls types are listed in the chart to the right, and as you can see, Falls and Sick People are the #1 and #2 most common type of EMS calls we receive. There are now four nursing homes / assisted living facilities in Madeira, including the new Traditions at Camargo which began operations in October. These four facilities account for about 21 calls each month, which totaled 246 calls for 2019. We monitor these calls and work with the staff to enhance our service to these facilities as well as not overburden the EMS system. It is a delicate balance and each facility attempts to use private EMS service for non-emergent calls as much as they can.

We transport to 12 area hospitals but the overwhelming majority (51%) are transported to Jewish Hospital in Kenwood. Bethesda North makes up 28% of the total transports while the other 10 hospitals make up the remainder of the transports. The convenient proximity of this hospital allows for the medic unit to return to service quickly. However, approximately 15% of the time, another emergency call comes in while we are handling an initial call. These are called Concurrent Runs We are able to staff a reserve medic unit, Medic 265. This unit handled 79 calls during 2019. For runs where we are unavailable to respond, the communication's center automatically dispatches then next closest and most appropriate unit (Mutual Aid) to that call. There were 46 times in 2019 that a mutual aid medic unit responded to the District when our units were unavailable.

EMS RUNS BY TYPE	
Pregnancy/OB	2
Well Person Check	3
Choking	4
Heat/Cold Exposure	5
Assault	7
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	9
Traffic/Transportation Incident	10
Allergic Reaction/Stings	12
Diabetic Problem	17
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	21
Hemorrhage/Laceration	21
Cardiac Arrest/Death	28
Stroke/CVA	28
Convulsions/Seizure	31
Abdominal Pain/Problems	32
Psychiatric Problem	35
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	48
Medical Alarm	47
Unconscious	59
Other- Not Categorized	95
Breathing Problem	103
Traumatic Injury	143
Sick Person	192
Falls	190
<b>TOTAL EMS</b>	<b>1142</b>

## EMS FACTS

*Total Runs:* **1142**  
*Most Common Dispatch Complaint:* **Fall (190)**  
*Most Frequent Hospital Destination:* **Jewish Hospital (364)**  
*Busiest Time of Day:* **11:00 AM**





# Fire / Rescue Operations

Our fire and rescue capabilities continue to develop through increased training, enhanced relationships with our mutual aid partners, equipment evaluation and upgrades, and the continued vigilance to always be prepared for any type of emergency. Our firefighting force is typically supported through the response of an engine, a quint, a medic unit and a chief officer. Through the use of automatic mutual aid for significant incidents, we simultaneously dispatch outside agencies to support the effort and tasks needed to perform fire suppression, search and rescue, salvage and overhaul and victim support.

FIRE RUNS BY TYPE	
Extrication	1
MVC vs. Pedestrian	1
Chimney Fire	1
Aircraft Fire	1
Person Search	1
Cover Assignment	2
Pubic Assist	3
Assist Invalid	4
Cook Fire Contained	6
Dispatch / Cancelled	7
Vehicle—Pass / Rail	7
Fire Unable to Respond	8
Service Call—Other	9
Water Problem	12
Hazardous Condition	13
MVC no Injury	14
Electrical Overheat	18
Structure Fire	18
Odor of Smoke	19
Outside / Trash Fire	20
Power Line Down	22
Carbon Monoxide	32
Gas Leak (NG / LPG)	32
Good Intent—Cancel	140
False Alarm—Other	157
<b>TOTAL FIRE</b>	<b>548</b>



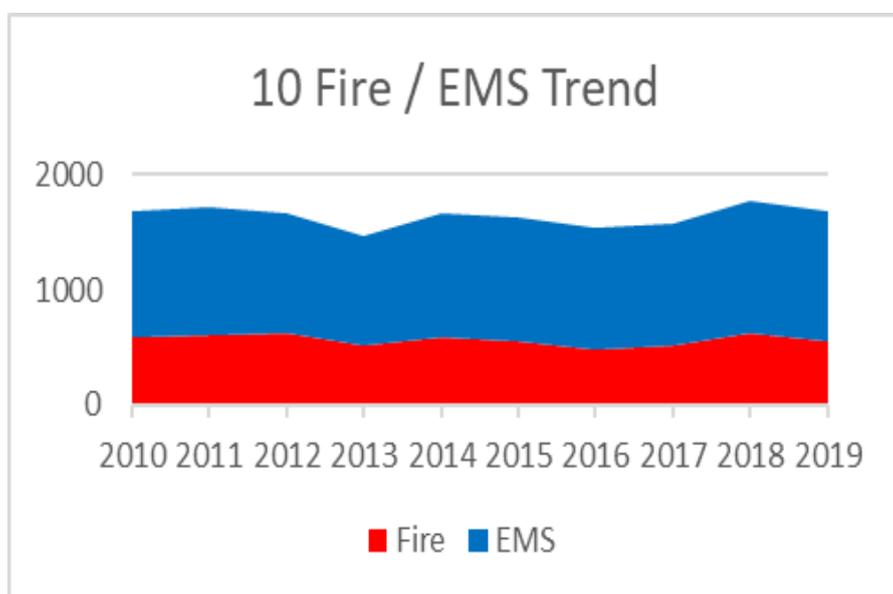
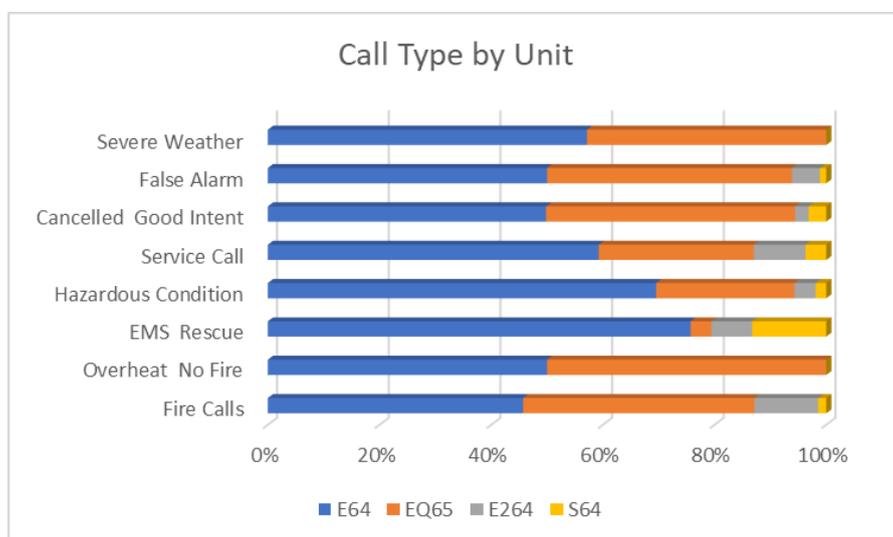
Fire run volume was down from 626 in 2018. This year we responded to a total of 548 Fire runs. Our most frequent call type is false alarms. False alarms are usually generated by automatic fire detection and suppression equipment. The fire loss for the year was significant due to two large fires including an aircraft crash and a commercial building fire. While these fire incidents are challenging, we don't have a high frequency for these events.

## **2019 Casualty Report**

- 1 Civilian Fatality- Aircraft Crash
- 2 Firefighter Injury Reports

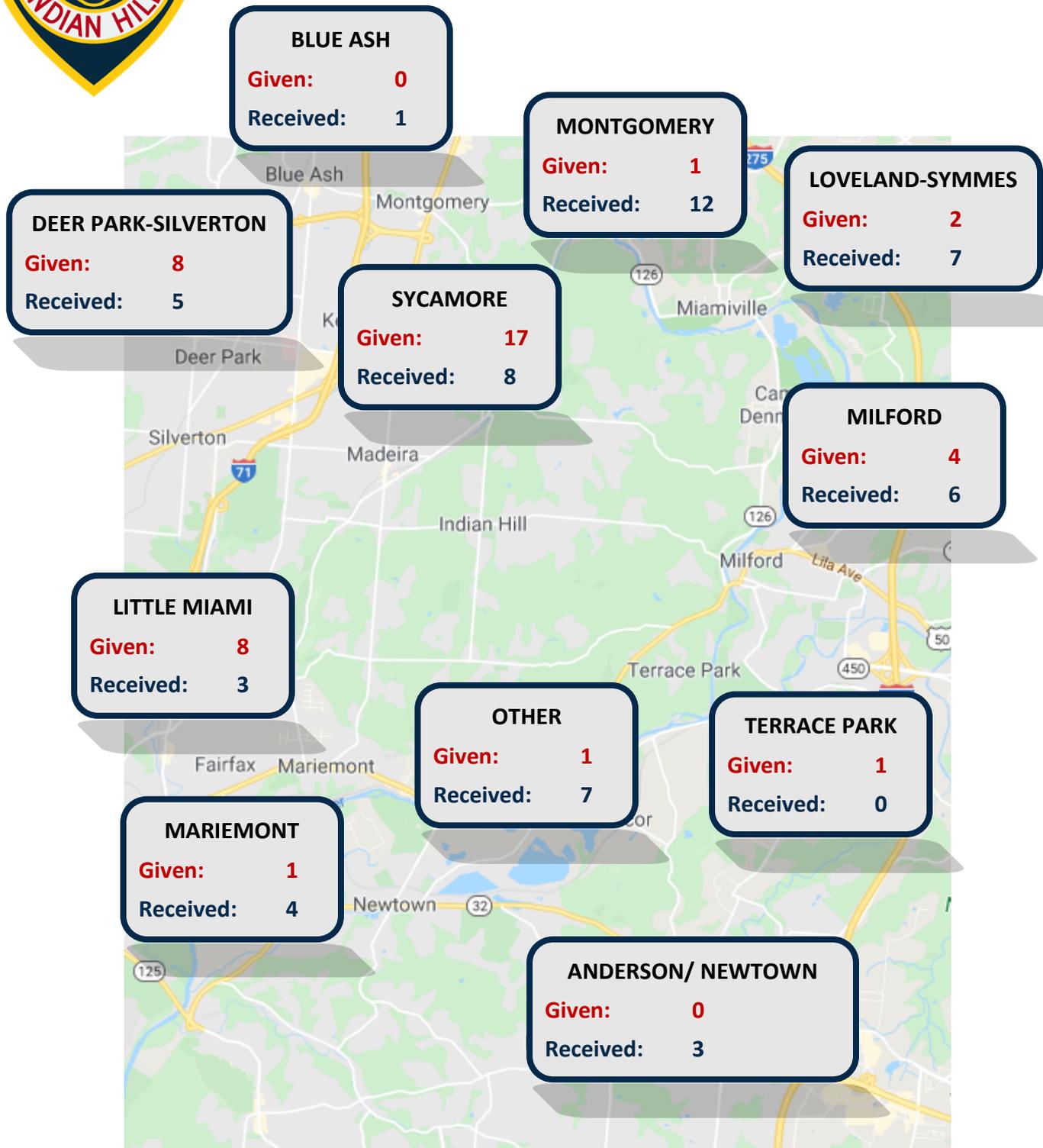
DATE	LOCATION	DISTRICT	TYPE	\$ LOSS
3/5/19	Larking Dr /Remington Rd	Indian Hill	Vehicle Fire	\$10,500
3/12/19	Rollymeade Ave	Madeira	Aircraft Crash	\$325,000
3/14/19	Loveland Madeira Rd	Indian Hill	Vehicle Fire	\$30,000
4/4/19	Blome Rd	Indian Hill	House Fire	\$60,000
7/5/19	Kugler Mill Rd / Blome Rd	Indian Hill	Vehicle Fire	\$20,000
10/27/19	Laurel Ave	Madeira	Building Fire	\$486,220
12/20/19	Longfield Dr	Madeira	House Fire	\$225,000

Fire incidents only comprise of about a third of our call volume. However, our staff is cross-trained as both firefighters and EMT or Paramedics. We send fire apparatus to most of our EMS calls for service to support the EMS crew and / or first respond. Since both medic units are quartered at the Madeira Station, the Support or Engine first responds to all details in Indian Hill. In the north area, Loveland-Symmes or Montgomery Fire Departments provide this first response utility. The chart explains what type of calls our fire apparatus respond to. Support 64 is often utilized to send man-power to EMS incidents while keeping Engine 64 available when staffing allows. During the day, this is especially true when daily staffing is supplemented by the station captains and the chief. In 2019, we began to study the role of Support 64 and we will enhance that apparatus in 2020. False Alarms continue to a major part of fire operations and we work with our residents to decrease the frequency of such alarms.





# Mutual Aid



The fire district is relatively small and is surrounded by similar small agencies where significant incidents rely heavily upon help from our neighbors. The chart above shows how we gave mutual aid and how we received mutual aid by jurisdiction. Our agreement is called AMARS or Automatic Mutual Aid Response System. We made one change to AMARS in 2019 by adding an additional medic unit to structure fires. Each structure fire now gets two medic units, one for EMS and one for firefighter rehabilitation. Rehab crews are charged with monitoring firefighters during the course of the operations and are in charge of their care if an injury or illness occurs.



# Apparatus Maintenance

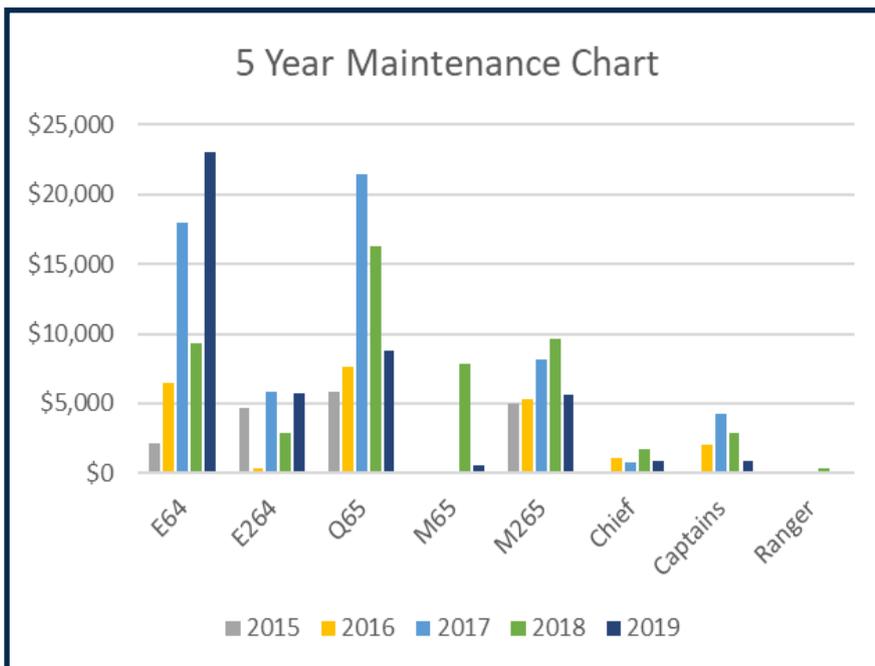
2019 has proved to be another extraordinary year in fleet maintenance with majority of expenditures accrued by reactive maintenance repairing unforeseen major mechanical items while preventative maintenance accounts for nearly 10% of total expenditures.

Engine 64 alone, the 2013 Pierce Impel Rescue Engine accounts for approximately 50% of total fleet maintenance expenditures.

To reduce maintenance cost, we do our best to diagnose, problem solve, part shop, and repair in-house. Even with our best attempts, our scope is very limited due to the increase complexity in technology that exists in these systems and the inability to repair major mechanical items that requires a Certified Emergency Vehicle Mechanic. The majority of items requires costly vendor service usually with costly OEM parts with wiper blades, engine oil, antifreeze, light bulbs or similar items of this type excluded.

UNIT	MAKE	2019 MILES	2019 COSTS
ENGINE 64	2013 PIERCE	6,138	\$23,057
QUINT 65	2009 PIERCE	2,454	\$8,795
ENGINE 264	2002 BOISE	1,436	\$6,699
MEDIC 65	2017 BRAUN	20,394	\$566
MEDIC 265	2010 HORTON	2,464	\$5,594

All vehicles did receive Annual Preventative Maintenance Service, NFPA inspections, pump testing, and ladder testing. Several items were discovered on these routine inspections. Overall, 2019 maintenance costs were \$46,460, which was \$8,355 below our 2018 expenses. Preventative Maintenance revealed repairs that were rectified before minor problems became catastrophic.



The 5 year maintenance Chart shows how our maintenance dollars were spent on each apparatus over a five year period. Spikes in spending are clearly shown on our primary fire apparatus, the E64 and Q65. The following attributed to the spike in E64 maintenance this year:

- Replaced power steering box
- Replaced leaf springs
- Replaced front brakes / tires
- Replaced turbo actuator
- Descale and paint frame rails and cross members



# Fire Prevention & Public Education

## Community Leaders Groups

The Fire Department participates in the periodic community leader forums for both of our communities. Attended by the respective school, church and civic leaders, the meetings provide an opportunity to share information and establish important relationships. The Fire Chief or his designee usually attend these quarterly meetings in both Indian Hill and Madeira.

## CPR/AED

In 2019, we conducted CPR/Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) classes for citizens and employees working in the JFD. In 2019, we held a quarterly CPR class and posted the availability through the methods for public access in both Madeira and Indian Hill. These classes filled within two days of posting and were very popular. Fifty-four citizens were trained in this manner in 2019 with an additional 71 others being trained within the school and transportation services.

There are 42 known Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in the Joint Fire District. Our personnel inspect and notify owners if the AED needs maintenance or equipment upgrades when they



## Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program

Inspections are an important aspect of fire prevention and one of the most effective ways for our personnel to become familiar with the occupancies in our response district. During the inspection, firefighters note characteristics and features of the building that may help during an actual emergency. Our goal is to conduct fire and life safety inspections on each commercial occupancy on an annual basis. Inspections are divided amongst the three shifts and completed throughout the year, by shift personnel who have successfully completed the Fire and Life Safety Inspector Certification / Re-Certification. The District has enjoyed very good relationships with our corporate and business citizens in our inspection program and as a result, no citations were issued to correct fire code violations.

Our firefighters conducted inspections in nearly all the district's 385 occupancies. In 2019, there were 504 inspection activities recorded to include initial inspections and re-inspections. There were some vacant structures that were not inspected due to lack of access. If a violation was noted, inspectors worked with owners and occupants to correct issues prior to the re-inspection. The most common violation found during our inspections were egress illumination failures, fire extinguisher maintenance neglect, unapproved electrical fixtures, misuse of extension cords in place of more permanent wiring and inside storage accumulations.

## Fireworks Permitting

The Fire Department is the local regulator of fireworks activities in the communities. Each display of fireworks is state regulated and requires a local permit, as authorized by both the authority having jurisdictions, which typically is both the Fire and Police Chiefs. There were ten fireworks permits issued in 2019 for the district. Both communities utilize several methods to alert citizens to the issuance of permits and announcing the date and time of displays to avoid complaints and keep the community informed.



## Plan Review

Plan reviews are conducted by fire inspectors for any remodeling or new construction in commercial buildings. During plan review, the reviewer evaluates means of egress, emergency lighting, fire protection features and general life safety issues. The reviewer then provides comments to the Hamilton County Building Department where their personnel approve plans, assign work orders or submit change orders prior to the plan being approved. Major projects included continuation of the Traditions at Camargo residential project in Madeira, construction of the Indian Hill Home of The Brave facility, and other miscellaneous construction projects, home construction, remodels and additions.

## Tank Inspections

The Fire District conducted eleven combustible or flammable liquid storage tank removal or installation inspections in 2019. The distribution of these inspections included removal of fuel oil tanks due to changes in fuel utilized by the homeowner, tanks that are “abandoned in place” due to obstacles of removal, and installation of additional tanks required for increased fuel demand. These tank inspections are regulated by the **Ohio Fire Code** and the locally adopted **Southwest Ohio Fire Safety Council Unified Fire Code**.

## Tent permits

Similarly, Fire and Zoning codes provide for the issuance of permits for the erection and use of tents that are larger than 400 square feet. In 2019, 34 tent permits were issued. Beside the detailed review of the permit and prior to final approval, inspectors conduct an on-site inspection of the site and the tent and compliance to the permit.



## Community Engagement

We conducted more than 35 fire station tours for various community groups often including focused safety information especially for the school groups that visited. Safety talk opportunities included neighborhood block parties, babysitter, library, Boy / Girl Scout merit badge and citizenship activities. Other activities focused on public education included Heimlich maneuver training for a restaurant staff and the Madeira Safety Camp. In addition, we conducted fire extinguisher training for two commercial occupancies during 2019. Neighborhood block parties have become a popular event in the area and the fire department frequently receives an invitation to attend. We take the opportunity to speak with residents about our operations, equipment and other fire safety topics.



## Public Education

Programs to improve fire and life safety awareness and knowledge for our citizens were held throughout the year at area nursing homes, schools, day care facilities and at other public locations. Fire prevention and injury prevention have evolved to become intrinsic to the Fire Department mission. We have continued to target public information relative to access for emergency response. We promote the use of 911 for emergencies – it is taught countrywide to all ages. We market and install the reflective address signs. We promote removing overhead obstructions and narrow gateways that prohibit access for fire trucks and ambulances. An increasing number of gated properties have installed FD access switches.



## Car Seat Safety

Our fire department conducts safety inspections for Child Safety Seats. The department has six members trained in evaluation and inspection of child safety seat installations and provides consulting services for parents. The service is provided best when a citizen makes an appointment. In 2019, our technicians adjusted, inspected or installed car seats for 101 citizens.





# Public Information

As we move into the future, it seems that public information and the technologies utilized to deliver information to the public are constantly evolving, improving and even challenging our fire department. We strive to put information out to the public that is consistent with our mission as well as to provide information about our business that is current and relevant. We utilize several platforms to deliver information to the public including the following:

**MIHJFD Newsletter:** The Spring and Fall newsletters provide our residents with relevant information from the fire department and serve as a platform for fundraising for the Madeira and Indian Hill Fire Company. The newsletter is used to publicize our public meetings for the year and provides proxy votes in accordance with our bi-laws as a government body that contracts with the two cities.

**MIHJFD Website:** We have been charged with updating our web site in 2019 and our staff took initial steps to improve our web site by purchasing a more comprehensive program to build a new and improved web site. We strive to provide updates and improvements throughout 2020. We currently utilize our own personnel to develop the web site and its content as opposed to paying a third party to develop and maintain our site.

**Facebook:** We have increased our use of these social media sites to provide up to the minute updates on relevant information including Fire / EMS information on major incidents, public education elements like smoke detector initiatives or other helpful fire safety tips. Several of our employees have access to these sites to provide information to the public without compromising the rights of victims or inadvertently highlighting or glorifying a tragic event.

**Public Records Commission:** The MIHJFD Board of Trustees utilizes a sub-committee to provide guidance on our public records. This sub-committee is active throughout the year to make sure that records are kept, maintained and distributed according to up-to-date policies and / or Ohio law.

**Media Relations:** For significant incidents, like the plane crash or the Madeira Meats fire, we fully anticipate media coverage. We enjoy a great relationship with the media and provide accurate information to the public in a timely manner during incidents.

**City Newsletters:** We provide both Madeira and Indian Hill with information or articles for their individual newsletters. In the second half of 2019, we provided articles about various fire prevention initiatives and updates on major incidents that occurred in the district. Look for these articles in the Madeira and the Indian Hill Newsletters in 2020.





# Logistics

## Facility Maintenance

We continue to work through issues for both stations including the bay exhaust system, HVAC complications and concrete replacement. Approximately 50% of all the concrete at both stations were replaced by Oswald Construction and its subcontractors. Since the original pour, the concrete was noted to have noticeable spalling. Oswald corrected the issues by taking out all bad sections and replacing with new concrete. We will continue to work through other issues including the exhaust system in 2020.



## Chief's Residence

Chief Ashbrock became the last fire chief to be provided with a residence as a part of the role of Chief for the District. The house served the District for many years, even in two separate locations, as it was moved once to provide a location for the old fire station in Indian Hill. Demolition is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020. Chief Ashbrock and his family lived in the house for 19 years and after retirement, they bought a house in Madeira to enjoy their next chapter.

## Water Supply Strategies

The District works with two water providers, the Greater Cincinnati Water Works and Indian Hill Water Department. Indian Hill maintains most of the water system which covers all of Indian Hill and a portion of Madeira. In 2019 we performed bi-annual inspection and maintenance in the Spring and Fall in conjunction with Indian Hill Water Works. There were two new water mains installed in the District to improve the water supply system for suppression purposes. One was a replacement and the other was for a new subdivision. We continued the 2018 Private Fire Hydrant Project and performed inspection and flow testing in conjunction with IHWW. The Village continues to make improvements in the water system to provide better fire flows.



This year, we initiated a new project to improve hydrant condition in the district through the generosity of Harold Thomas. Mr. Thomas private financed the blasting and painting of 100 hydrants in Madeira and Indian Hill. Ellis Maintenance and Blasting performed the work and drastically improved the condition of these hydrants.