



# Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District



ANNUAL REPORT  
2023





# Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District

CHIEF

**Stephen C. Oughterson**

CAPTAINS

**Francisco Cáceres**

**Kevin Scheuerman**

**John Lynch**

**Brandon Linne**

LIEUTENANTS

**Nick Stiens**

**Patrick McCall**

**Sean McCarthy**

## TRUSTEES

**Beth Wright**

PRESIDENT

**Don McGraw**

VICE PRESIDENT

**Jennifer Lightcap**

SECRETARY

**Jim Gulick**

TREASURER

**Matt Borneman**

**David Ellis**

**John Hassan**

**Don McGraw**

**Doug Moorman**

**Sam Robinson**

**Joe Weil**

**Chris Hilberg**

February 1, 2024

Board of Trustees

Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District

Mrs. Beth Wright, President

The following report is a look back at the year 2023 for the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District. I am most proud to report that the Joint Fire District continues to provide great service to the citizens of our communities. For the first time in recent history, we did not exceed the previous year's run volume. Loss of life was minimized by the continued efforts of our staff and those who allow us the opportunity to serve. We have embraced our mission, vision, values and philosophy and carry the passion for the job in everything we do as emergency responders.

We took delivery of two vehicles for our fleet and are pleased to report they are both in service at our Indian Hill Fire Station.

The annual report highlights the activities and programs for the JFD in 2023 regarding administration and operations in our continuing effort to provide the very best service to our residents, visitors and neighbors.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Oughterson

Fire Chief

6475 Drake Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45243  
P: (513) 561-7926  
F: (513) 561-7733  
[www.mihjfd.org](http://www.mihjfd.org)



# Organizational Chart

**Stephen Oughterson**  
FIRE CHIEF



**Francisco Cáceres**  
CAPTAIN



**Sara Jacob**  
Admin. Assistant



**Heather Jordan**  
District Clerk



**Unit 1**

CAPTAIN

LIEUTENANT

Six Firefighter / Medics

Part Time FFP/EMT's

**Unit 2**

CAPTAIN

LIEUTENANT

Six Firefighter / Medics

Part Time FFP/EMT's

**Unit 3**

CAPTAIN

LIEUTENANT

Six Firefighter / Medics

Part Time FFP/EMT's

Our staffing level remains relatively the same as 2022, with the exception of the resignation of FF / Medic Michael Posega and small fluctuations in our part time staff. FF / Medic Posega now serves as a Lieutenant with the City of Franklin Fire Division in Warren County. His position with MIHJFD remained vacant for over two months during the selection process for his replacement. The process revealed an outstanding candidate and he is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2024. Part time positions continue to fluctuate due to a competitive market in our region where FF / EMT's now have career opportunities in several local departments including the City of Cincinnati, Anderson Township and Green Township, for example.

# Unit 1

**Capt. Kevin Scheuerman**



EMS Program Manager

**Lt. Nick Stiens**



EMS Supply

**Joseph Meyer**



EMS Quality Assurance

**Brian Dapper**



Vehicle Maintenance

**Griffin Drake**



Map Books / Car Seat Tech

**Alex Brahm**



Community CPR / EMS Training

**Devin Moore**



Address Signs / Fitness

**Zakk VanNottingham**



Unit 1 Inspections

**Denny Parry**



Part time FF / EMT

**Terry Lovelace**



Part time FF / EMT

**Olson Reider**



Part time FF / EMT

**Matt Stickley**



Part time FF / Medic



# Unit 2

**Capt. John Lynch**



Fire Prevention Program Manager

**Lt. Sean McCarthy**



Hydrant Maintenance

**Brian Willing**



Vehicle Maintenance

**Michael Hoying**



EMS Quality Assurance

**Taylor Hester**



EMS Training

**Alexander Stubbs**



Peer Support / Fitness

**Mark Feldmann**



Unit 2 Inspections

**Ryan Smith**



Unit 2 Inspections

**Jeff Ashpaw**



Part time FF / Medic

**Glenn Hansen**



Part time FF / EMT

**Mitchell Morgan**



Part time FF / EMT

**Anna Tubbs**



Part time FF / EMT

# Unit 3

**Capt. Brandon Linne**



Maintenance Program Manager

**Lt. Pat McCall**



Station Maintenance Manager

**Doug Bingaman**



Station Supply / Car Seat Tech

**Toney Sanders**



Radio Maint. / Address Signs

**Michael Posega**



Uniforms

**Kurtis Mahan**



EMS Quality Assurance

**Joseph Placke**



Peer Support / Local 2236 President

**Scott Otten**



EMS Supply / Local 2236 VP

**Jeff Glassmeyer**



Part time FF / Medic

**Ben Rood**



Part time FF / EMT

**Trevor Fluehr**



Part time FF / EMT

**NOT PICTURED:**  
Nicholas Falciani  
Johannes Gebauer  
Alex Kessen  
Ty Zimmerman



# Personnel

## 2023 New Part-time Personnel

**Nick Falciani:** Nick completed his fire training at Scarlet Oaks and has been in the fire service since 2023. He currently works at Liberty Township Fire Department in a part time capacity as well. He is pursuing enrollment in Paramedic school at Butler Tech to complete his paramedic certification.

**Terry Lovelace:** Terry joined MIHJFD in 2023 after completing his training at Scarlet Oaks Fire Academy. He also works part time in the hospitality industry. Terry is planning for Paramedic school as a next step toward advancing his career.



**Mitchell Morgan:** Mitchell came to MIHJFD after graduating from the Scarlet Oaks Fire Academy in the Spring of 2023. In addition to serving at the JFD, he also works part time for the Green Township Fire Department. He is looking at his options for enrollment in Paramedic school.

### 2023 Years of Service Awards

#### 30 Years

Brian Willing

#### 10 Years

Capt. Brandon Linne

#### 5 Years

Devin Moore, Kurtis Mahan, Ben Rood, Zakk VanNottingham, Joe Placke, Chief Stephen Oughterson, Mark Feldmann

### 2023 Letter of Commendation

#### Maintenance Team

Brian Dapper, Capt. Brandon Linne, Brian Willing

#### ROSC 8/5/2023

Taylor Hester, Capt. John Lynch, Lt. Sean McCarthy, Scott Otten, Joe Placke, Toney Sanders, Ryan Smith

#### ROSC 12/8/2023

Doug Bingaman, Alex Brahm, Nick Falciani, Capt. Brandon Linne, Mitch Morgan, Scott Otten, Joe Placke

## IAFF Local 2236

In the last year, the Madeira & Indian Hill Professional Firefighters have continued our mission in building of relationships with labor, management, and the communities served by the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District. The Annual Bowling Tournament took place, along with the largest bourbon raffle ever conducted in Local 2236 history. Over \$10,000 was raised from both events and a large donation was made to the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati. Participating in Fourth of July celebrations in both of our communities is always a staple in our yearly event schedule.



The Bourbon Raffle appears to be a major contributor to our fundraising efforts and proceeds from our fundraising events will be placed in the newly established Charitable Arm Fund which will better suit our ability to help others.

The Madeira & Indian Hill Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 2236 will continue our mission, goals and objectives supporting our communities as well as any others that request our help, to the best of our ability. We would like to thank community members for their support as we are looking forward to another great year.



# New Apparatus

Capital purchases for 2023 included a 2023 Chevy Tahoe to replace a 2011 Chevy Tahoe.

The new vehicle was upfitted with emergency equipment from TriState Public Safety to include LED emergency lighting, a storage module for the rear, radios and mobile data computer. We run two command vehicles and those vehicles are take home vehicles for those two command officers. Chief Oughterson will use this vehicle and the 2020 Tahoe will be used by Captain Caceres. We also took delivery of the E-One Cyclone engine that was ordered in November, 2021.



The E-One features the following:

- Short wheelbase
- Larger water tank – 750 gallons
- Larger amount of attack hose
- Larger Cummins X12 power plant
- All LED lighting including scene lights
- Enhanced pump panel hand wheel valves
- Seating for 5 crew members
- Class A foam system
- Large cabinet for Paramedic equipment

The short wheelbase allows the truck to enter many of the gated driveways in Indian Hill. We put a larger tank on the unit so that it gives us more time to establish a water supply and it also allows us to better utilize the water for firefighting in our longer attack lines. The hose is deployed from the rear of the truck, which allows our attack lines to be longer than the traditional length from cross lays. The increased power plant gives us plenty of power for the large hills in our district.



The new engine went in-service at the beginning of the November Board of Trustees Meeting with a special push-in ceremony. The new engine is housed at Station 64 in Indian Hill. The 2015 Pierce Impel Rescue Engine moved to Station 65 and the 2008 Pierce Quint is now placed in reserve status.





# Fiscal Report

The JFD completed 2023 under budget despite the challenges of unexpected cost increases. Interest income and the sale of apparatus helped offset operational and administrative budget overruns. A great example of unexpected increase costs was the replacement of a compressor at Station 65. We replaced a compressor that cost almost three times as much as a similar purchase in 2020. As you can see below, most of our budget is comprised of personnel salary and benefit expenses. All of our staff received 3% raises in 2023.

## Operating Budget

- Salaries / Benefits Actual: \$4,113,100 1% under budget
- Operations Actual: \$292,291 9% over budget
- Administrative Actual: \$380,557 1% over budget

## 2023 Operating Budget

**\$4,797,800**

## Capital Budget

- Capital Equipment Purchases for new engine \$28,132
- New Engine Final Payment \$19,519
- Turn Out Gear \$31,500
- 2023 Tahoe and Uplift \$67,706

## 2023 Capital Budget

**\$200,000**

## Miscellaneous Income

- Interest Income \$50,278
- Sale of Apparatus 2001 Boise and 2011 Tahoe \$18,000
- Address Sign / Tank Permits \$1,285

## EMS Billing

Our EMS billing is handled by **Medicount** Management, a Cincinnati based company that exclusively bills our EMS customers. Money collected from EMS calls is billed directly to our client's insurance company, Medicare or Medicaid, if we transport them to a hospital. EMS billing supplements our operational budget and monies collected get credited to Madeira and Indian Hill. Revenues for the year were down due to a decline in claim submissions. **Medicount** and the JFD have identified the issue and worked jointly for resolution. Revenue losses will be recovered in the first quarter of 2024.

**2021**

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	524
ALS	484
ALS 2	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1019</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$316,866</b>

**2022**

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	705
ALS	558
ALS 2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1267</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$394,726</b>

**2023**

Service Level	Total Runs
BLS	640
ALS	505
ALS 2	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1154</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$345,985</b>



# Public Information

We utilize several platforms to keep the public informed about department events, present safety messages, and to communicate Board of Trustee and committee meetings. In 2023, the Joint Fire District utilized our website and other platforms below to provide our residents the latest news and prevention efforts. All of these platforms are updated by our personnel.

**MIHJFD Newsletter:** The spring and fall newsletters provide our residents with relevant information from the JFD and serve as a platform for fundraising for the Fire Company. The newsletter is used to publicize our public meetings for the year and provide a platform for public education. The spring newsletter educated residents on the importance of CPR and provided dates to upcoming classes, as well as an overview of our hydrant maintenance. Our fall newsletter highlighted lithium battery safety and warned on the dangers of vaping.

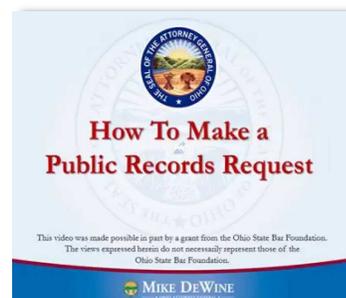
**MIHJFD Website:** We regularly update the website to include safety messages, upcoming events and access to fire, personnel pictures, community surveys and monthly chief reports.

**Facebook/Instagram:** We continue to use 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. Three officers 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. We have reached over 38,000 Facebook users with our page, and have over 4,300 followers.

**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 we create press releases that are available to the media when requested. 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 2023, we published articles about various fire prevention initiatives including smoking detector safety while traveling, and residential gas line awareness, an update on our apparatus deployment strategies, as well as updates on the methane leak in Madeira.





# Training

We take pride in the time we spend training each year. The training pays off for the safety of our firefighters and to provide the best possible service to our citizens. In 2023, we logged a total of 2,317 hours of hands-on training and online training. Training is a requirement to continue to be certified in Ohio and our program always exceeds those minimum requirements. The average hours logged for training for our career personnel was about 83 hours per employee. Unit 2 had five personnel in the top ten. As a department, two-thirds of our training hours were spent on fire related topics.



## Top 5 Training Hours Logged

Joe Placke	198
Francisco Caceres	126
Taylor Hester	123
John Lynch	121
Ryan Smith	116



## FireRescue 1 Academy

We renewed our subscription to an online training platform called FireRescue 1 Academy. Online training provides an avenue for our employees to achieve continuing education hours at their convenience. The platform is customizable to the needs of the JFD and we have access to over 1000 courses from firefighting and EMS, as well as other important trainings in our region. The JFD logged 474 hours of FireRescue 1 Academy Training in 2023.

## Leadership Academy / Extreme Ownership

We had two leadership programs running simultaneously in 2023. This year we sent our third class through Leadership Academy. Lieutenant's Nick Stiens and Pat McCall completed the year-long program, and Captain Brandon Linne served as their mentor. The year culminated in a project that improved our Employee Evaluation system. The second program was the Extreme Ownership Academy, based on the best selling book from American heroes Jocko Willink and Leif Babin. The academy teaches our firefighters and officers to elevate their effectiveness as leaders. There were five members that completed the program:

**Alex Brahm, Capt. Francisco Caceres, Capt. John Lynch, Lt. Pat McCall and Joe Placke.**

## Loveland Fire Training Tower

We utilized our subscription to the fire training tower in Loveland for three trainings during 2023. Trainings at the tower are planned at the beginning of the year by the training group and each department rotates through as lead agency. The trainings all focused on multi-company operations in a live fire setting.



## Swift Water Response

Our collaboration with our neighbors along the Little Miami River continued and quarterly training was the highlight of the year for our members. Our partnership has expanded to include Anderson and Little Miami. Training for the year focused on improving swimming skills and the ability to perform in swift water, rope skills and equipment familiarization. Our members have to pass a vigorous swim test and attend quarterly trainings to be a part of this specialized team.

The following personnel are members of the Swift Water Response Team:

**Chief Oughterson, Capt. Cáceres, Capt. Lynch, FFP Brahm, FFP Hester, FFP Stubbs**

## USAR (Urban Search and Rescue)

We continue to participate in the Hamilton County Urban Search and Rescue Team. We spend far more hours training than we do with actual events, but due to the high risk, low frequency of rescues like building collapse, it only amplifies the need for excellent training for our personnel. We hosted one of the quarterly trainings for the USAR team at Station 64. The focus of the training was Search Techniques. The USAR group expanded operations to include an drone unit called the Aerial Response Unit. In 2023, the group was successful in procuring a grant for a specialized vehicle to carry and operate the drones. The vehicle will be delivered in late 2024.



The following personnel are rescue specialists for Hamilton County USAR:

**Chief Oughterson, Capt. Cáceres, Capt. Lynch,  
FFP Bingaman, FFP Meyer, FFP Placke, and  
FFP Zimmerman**



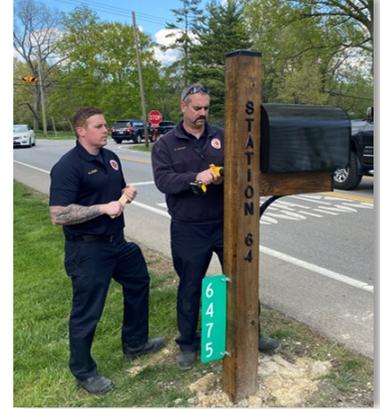


# Fire Prevention &

Our Fire Prevention and Public Education programs are overseen by Captain John Lynch and individually managed by our firefighter paramedics. Their roles vary, depending on the program and its goals. Here are some of the highlights from 2023.

## Address Signs

Firefighters have been providing address signs to our residents (at cost) for years. The address sign is 6" x 18" with reflective numbers and are attached to mailbox posts or attached to a separate post. Signs are \$15 and posts are \$10 if needed with no extra cost for installation. Highly visible address signs makes our job easier by identifying your home in an emergency. Our website has information and an online order form for your convenience. Last year we assembled and installed 33 signs for our residents.



## Car Seat Safety

In the year 2023 starting from January 1 to December 31, our car seat techs inspected a total of 81 car safety seats, which is the same number of seats we did in 2021. We again averaged between 6 to 7 car safety seats per month. We also continued our commitment to the community by hosting our annual "Car Seat Blitz", where we bring in all of our inspectors to provide an open house and car seat checkup. This event also serves as a continuing education for our Inspectors that helps them recertify their certifications.

The program continues to provide support for the citizens of Madeira and Indian Hill in the proper use, installation of, and education with regards to car safety seats. To date, the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District has inspected a total of 2,698 car seats since the inception of the program in 2000. We currently are staffed with four car seat technicians which consists of Griffin Drake on Unit 1, Mike Hoying on Unit 2, and Doug Bingaman & Toney Sanders on Unit 3.

## Knox Boxes

A Knox Box is a hardened box that attaches to business or residences to allow access for firefighters, much like the realtor key box. The Knox Box contains keys, alarm and contact information and they are checked each year as a part of our inspection program. The JFD assisted with installations of five new boxes in 2023 at Indian Hill School district buildings. We also have a loaner program intended for short periods when the occupant may have special needs that may keep them from answering the door during an emergency or fire / medical alarm activation. The JFD has 22 boxes and we loaned out 15 last year. Residences that have gates are required to be equipped with a Knox key switch override for fire access. This year we added seven gate key switches. Lt. McCall has been managing this program and information is available on our website.

## Plan Review

Plan reviews are conducted by fire inspectors for any remodeling or new construction in commercial buildings. During plan reviews, means of egress, emergency lighting and general life safety issues are

# Public Education

examined. 66 plan reviews were performed in 2023. Major projects included the plan review for Indian Hill Schools, Madeira Schools, McDonald Commons Park and many more projects. We were also a part of planning process for a large residential project to include fire department vehicle access, sprinkler protection and fire alarm system components.

## Public Education

In 2023 the Joint Fire District presented 26 safety talks / station tours, participated in block parties and parades to educate the public in fire and life safety initiatives. These events provided members with an opportunity to positively impact hundreds of citizens. Firefighters spoke on several topics including home fire safety, escape routes, first aid and more.



## Smoke Detector Blitz

The Joint Fire District's second Annual Smoke Detector Blitz was a success. Our goal continues to be to ensure that all residents within the district have at least one working smoke detector. This year we continued to focus our efforts on locations where we believe residents could use our help the most. We focused on 15 streets between Shawnee Run and Kenwood Hills. During the Blitz, our firefighters replaced non-working and out of date detectors, installed new detectors, changed batteries, tested CO detectors, and handed out educational pamphlets related to smoke detector placement and use. In addition, the firefighters gained working knowledge of the district by identifying potential dangers such as hoarder conditions and solar panels on rooftops.

- ◆ 318 Residences Hit
- ◆ 65 Smoke Detectors distributed
- ◆ 20 Batteries replaced
- ◆ 65 Pamphlets handed out



## Tank Inspections

The Joint Fire District conducted 11 combustible or flammable liquid storage tank removal or installation inspections in 2023. 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.

## Tent Permits

Working with the Hamilton County Building Dept and the Village of Indian Hill, 61 tent permits were issued in 2023. The fire district sends a fire inspector to each permitted event and briefs the responsible persons on basic fire safety, weather awareness and also provides an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for large gatherings on private property. AED's are provided by the JFD on a loaner basis.



# CPR

The MIHFD staff has CPR instructors available to teach and to certify CPR curriculum for several programs from the American Heart Association catered toward responders, caretakers, and citizens. Our program is set up to deliver instruction to the public once a month; however, some of the classes are cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Our most successful instruction occurred at the Madeira High School where we trained 117 students in the October class. Our program is run by Firefighter / Paramedic Alex Brahm and he is assisted by our other CPR instructors. In 2023, we had contact with 194 people who took part in one of our CPR programs. We offer CPR classes each quarter and teach specialized classes upon request and approval from the Fire Chief. We encourage all of our citizens to be CPR trained.



**What you learn and practice, might one day save a life.**

**Go to [MIHJFD.org](http://MIHJFD.org) and sign up for our next class!**

We were fortunate to partner with the Indian Hill Daddy – Daughter Dance, as a benefactor, to enhance our CPR Program and community safety. It was the focus of Jenifer Bahl and Hillary Weidner to make sure that our parks have access to AED's. They accomplished that goal through the generous contributions of residents and businesses who raised just shy of \$20,000 at the 2023 Daddy – Daughter Dance.



Through the fundraising efforts of Bahl and Weidner, the JFD was able to purchase and install three AED's and cabinets for public use in our parks. AED's were installed at Camp Dennison Park, the Livingston Lodge and Stephan Field. The highly visible, all-weather cabinets house an AED for public use.



Sudden cardiac arrest awareness was highlighted in the events that unfolded with Buffalo Bill Damar Hamlin collapsed on national TV. Although the occurrence is rare among athletes and young children, it does happen and a quick response with bystander CPR and the application of an AED prior to the arrival of paramedics, have proven to be life-saving.



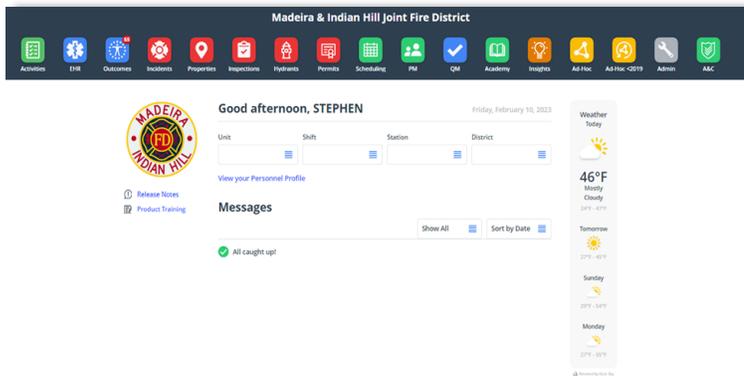


# In-House

## ESO

Platform development and data entry continued to be the focus for our personnel in 2023 regarding ESO. Capt. Caceres has implemented over 11 modules to include

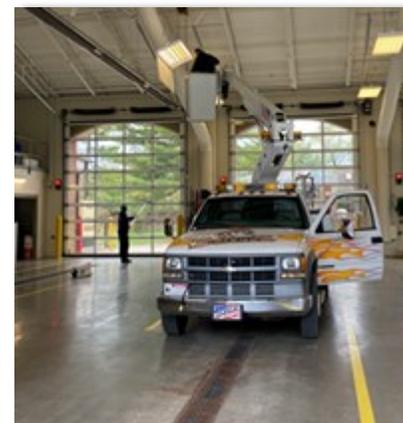
incident reporting, daily activities, personnel scheduling, training, quality management, hydrant inventory, preplanning and inspections to name a few. The platform continues to work smoothly, and we are learning more each week. Interest in the collaborative effort of the ESO Group has spread to several fire departments and the group met regularly to improve their platform for their department as well as to work



closely with ESO creators to enhance the platform for fire departments around the country. Capt. Caceres traveled to Texas for a weeklong conference to learn more about the records management system and to speak directly with program writers and creators.

## Facility Maintenance

Daily upkeep and maintenance tasks were done in-house whenever possible, by our firefighters. Some of our firefighters have “unique” skills and talents that were put to good use, keeping our stations clean, functional, presentable and a source of pride for the community. In 2023, we completed annual testing on the kitchen hood systems, sewer backflows and all fire extinguishers at both stations. Maintenance on the alarm and sprinkler systems were completed per manufacturer recommendations. We have maintenance agreements for the bay doors, HVAC, station generators, fire alarm panel, sprinkler system and kitchen hood system. Some of our in-house repairs included:



### Station 64

- Replaced downspout.
- Smoke detector replaced in bunk room.
- Exterior Pillar light repaired.
- The lawn was fertilized and mulch applied.
- Water fountain repaired.
- Alarm system repaired.
- Alarm system batteries replaced.
- Gear extractor hoses replaced on chemical dispensing system.

### Station 65

- Replaced Oven ignitor.
- Bunk room rooftop condenser replaced.
- Station vacuum repaired.
- The lawn was fertilized, and rock applied to Miami side.
- Bathroom sink repaired.
- Alarm system repaired.
- New Lawn mower purchased.
- Domestic washing machine repaired.



# EMS Operations

Dr. Sarah Wolochatiuk has taken over as our Medical Director. Dr. Wolochatiuk came highly recommended by Dr. Rachael Matthews.

Dr. Wolochatiuk is a Madeira resident and a practicing emergency medicine physician at TriHealth. Dr. Wolochatiuk received her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and her MD and MBA from Tulane University. She completed her emergency medicine residency training at University of Cincinnati.



MIHJFD was awarded \$3,014 in grant money in 2023. These funds allowed for the purchase of carbon monoxide monitoring equipment for all five of our first-in bags. These devices keep us safe by constantly monitoring the air for the presence of carbon monoxide while on EMS incident scenes. This is particularly helpful because CO can cause vague and generalized symptoms which can easily be mistaken for other illnesses. These detectors go where our EMS crews go, and will notify the team if they enter a dangerous environment.



Additionally, with the help of the grant we were able to purchase two patient lifting harnesses, one for each medic unit. These lifting devices can be secured around an immobile patient in most any position, essentially putting handles on the patient. This then helps us lift them safely when it may be otherwise difficult to do so.

## Mission Lifeline

Cardiac calls are an important part of our emergency services as our paramedics can triage, treat and transmit information directly to the emergency room physician. Telemetry from our cardiac monitors can show the doctor exactly what we are seeing in the field and our 12 lead monitors provide our paramedics a view of the electronic waveform. The characteristics of the waveform help the paramedic see what is going on with the heart. We can see a heart attack, transmit the data to the E.R., provide life saving cardiac medications and go directly to the Catheter Lab in some applications. Mission Lifeline is a program designed to improve cardiac care from EMS contact through in-hospital treatment and release. The JFD was recognized with the Bronze Award. Criteria for the award is as follows:

- ◆ **Patients age 35 and older that present with chest pain receive an EKG in the field by EMS providers. To earn Plus level, must be within the first 10 minutes of contact**
- ◆ **If Paramedics interpret the EKG to show evidence of an MI, the EKG is transmitted to the receiving hospital within 10 minutes of interpretation**
- ◆ **Patients showing evidence of an MI are transported directly to a hospital with 24/7/365 Cath Lab**
- ◆ **Time from first contact by EMS to device placed in hospital cath lab is less than 90 minutes**

**BRONZE**

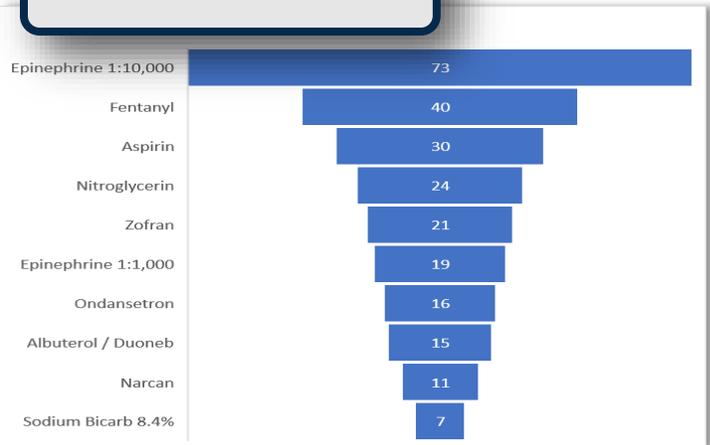
EMS continues to be the lion-share of our emergency operations and run volumes have steadily increased. However, unlike in years past, we didn't eclipse last years EMS incidents in 2023; we were down 73 incidents from 2022. Over thirty percent of our EMS run volume (541 runs) occur in three care facilities in Madeira. Because of care facilities are in Madeira and most of the district population is located in Madeira, most of our EMS runs occur in this part of the Joint Fire District. The following graphs illustrate some facts about our EMS operations:

### EMS Runs by Impression



This graph illustrates that injuries, such as falls, make up a good majority of our call types, with respiratory problems being second.

### Medications Given



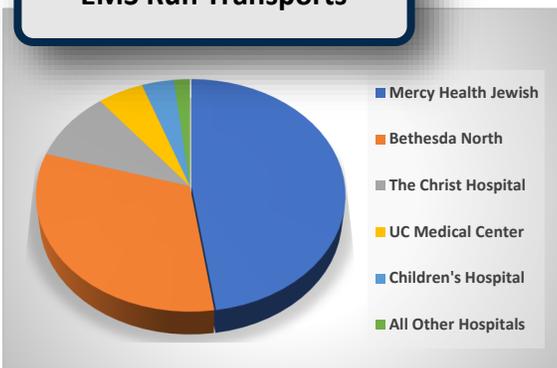
This graph shows that we have a close distribution between the top five drugs. Our protocol allows our medics to administer over 20 medications to patients in the prehospital setting.

### EMS by the Numbers

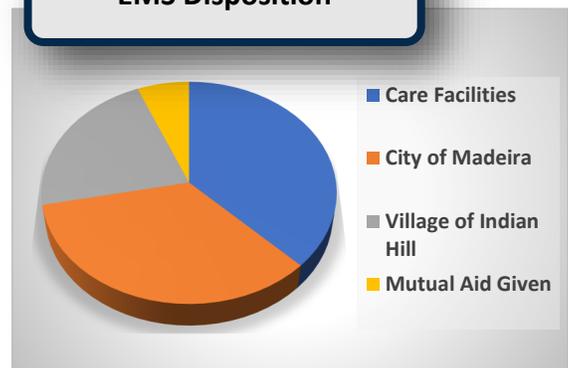


We are fortunate to have great hospitals within a few minutes of the JFD. We transport 80% of all our patients to either Mercy Health Jewish or Bethesda North.

### EMS Run Transports



### EMS Disposition





# Fire / Rescue Operations

We had three incidents this year that were out of the ordinary, even for our profession as emergency responders. The first incident occurred in May after a late evening thunderstorm. The JFD was called by a resident on Drake Road after they smelled smoke after

a lightning strike. Firefighters arrived to find fire in the ceiling of a basement bedroom. However, on the other side of the house, smoke conditions worsened until firefighters found a second fire in the ceiling above a utility room. Our investigation revealed that lightning indeed struck the house and caused two separate failures in the CSST gas lines that traveled the concealed space between the basement and the first floor. There were no injuries, however damage to the home was significant. As of this annual report, the residents are still displaced in temporary housing

until repair and renovation is complete.

The second unusual incident occurred in Madeira when crews were called to investigate the smell of natural gas in the residence. Quint 65 arrived on the scene and quickly realized that there was a working fire in the basement. The call type was upgraded to a structure fire, which brought our mutual aid partners in to assist. The fire and smoke heavily damaged the basement, but the basement door was closed and smoke damage throughout the rest of the home was limited. Thankfully, the occupants were not injured, and they worked with the American Red Cross for temporary housing.

The other unusual incident occurred in September when a drilling company punctured a methane gas pocket while drilling for a geothermal well on Miami Ave. in Madeira. The company attempted to kill the well, but the pressure was too great and the gas continued to escape into the atmosphere. There were several agencies involved in the incident and ultimately, it was decided to safely vent the gas into the atmosphere until the well could be successfully capped. The venting process was monitored everyday until it was capped on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Although unusual and potentially dangerous, there were no injuries and businesses were not affected long-term.

There were a low number of incidents that recorded a fire loss. Our total loss for 2023 was approximately \$807,000 from fires in buildings or vehicles. The loss data is based upon our estimate of loss from fire / smoke based on the amount of destruction and values obtained from the county auditor's website and is no



FIRE RUNS BY TYPE	
Ruptures	4
Other	3
Service Calls	43
Fire Incidents	81
Good Intent Calls	183
Hazards	141
False Alarms	211
EMS / Rescues	1458

DATE	LOCATION	INCIDENT TYPE	TOTAL LOSS	CITY
4/2023	Drake Rd.	Lightning Strike	\$700,000	Indian Hill
6/2024	Osceola Rd.	Basement Electrical Fire	\$85,000	Madeira
11/2024	Apache Circle	Mulch Fire extended to home	\$15,100	Madeira



# Water Supply Strategies

In 2023, members of the Joint Fire District and IHWW worked in cooperation to perform fire flow testing. 774 hydrants (both public and private, with permission) were flushed and 281 new flow data points were collected. All new flow data was added to the ESO database and Active911 was updated to reflect fire flow based on NFPA's color coding recommendations for hydrant flow.

We inspected over 1,700 hydrants to ensure accessibility, including lubrication, clearance of brush, removal of debris and reporting of needed repairs. It is integral that fire hydrants be fully visible and operational for arriving fire crews. Additionally, crews collected GPS coordinates of hydrants while performing inspections. The locations of all hydrants in the District (IHWW and GCWW) are now within 95% accuracy.



The Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District continues to work with two water providers – Indian Hill Water Works (IHWW) and Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) – to maintain and improve available fire flows. Water is the primary resource used by the Joint Fire District to protect life and property when a fire occurs. Two factors affect adequate water supply: accessibility and quantity. Any efforts made to increase accessibility and quantity directly affect firefighting efforts.

This year saw major updates to data management using ESO and Active911. Due to extensive work done by Mark Feldmann, efficient workflows were developed to streamline data management of hydrants.

In addition to fall hydrant inspections, winter inspections were a new addition this year. 45 GCWW hydrants were found to have water in their barrel and were pumped out near the close of the year. IHWW hydrants were pumped by Indian Hill Water employees. Second only to repair, this is the District's best defense against hydrants freezing during winter temperatures. Each hydrant will then have a reinspection performed to determine the rate of the leak. This information will give a clear picture of hydrants at risk for freezing



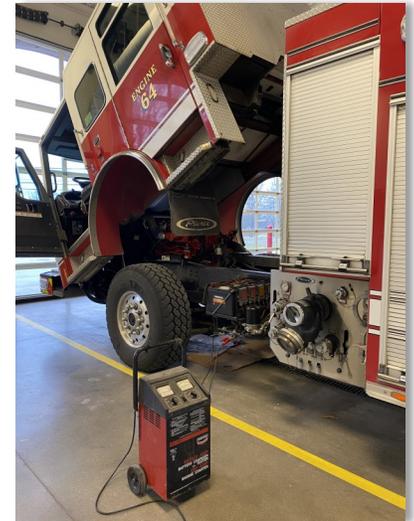
We purchased one TurboDraft Fire Eductor that was placed on Engine 64. The purpose of the device is to allow the operator of the truck to enhance water supply by taking it from a static source. In our area, we can use the device to tap into pools or ponds up to 250' away from the truck to increase fire flows up to 600 gallons per minute in addition to what we get off the hydrant. We plan on using this to increase water supply in areas where water supply is decreased or flow demand offsets flow capability. There are a few areas where small water mains have fire flows that are less than desirable.



# Apparatus Maintenance

Our fleet maintenance program was managed by Captain Brandon Linne with assistance from FF / Medic Dapper and Willing on the other two shifts. Together, the team saves us monthly on maintenance by completing oil changes on staff vehicles and medic units in-house. Minor repairs are also completed in-house by the maintenance coordinators on each shift. Major maintenance is out-sourced to either Atlantic Emergency Solutions or Vogelpohl Fire Equipment. The two companies have fixed facilities in the region as well as mobile units that can respond to our station.

In 2023, we continued to see high prices for parts with extended lead times that we saw in 2022. Our fleet changed significantly as we featured in New Apparatus. We sold the 2002 Boise Rescue Pumper and the 2011 Chevy Tahoe in 2023. Overall maintenance costs weren't over budget, but we did spend a significant proportion on repairs for the 2013 Peirce Impel.

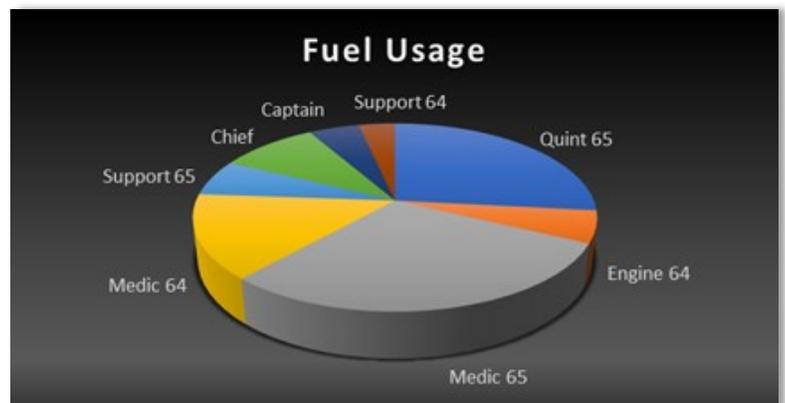


The biggest project for the maintenance team was to upfit the new E-One Cyclone pumper for service. We spent several months mounting equipment in the engine. Custom up-fitting can be out-sourced after delivery but we chose to complete the project ourselves as we have a talented team and a well designed apparatus. The medic units and staff vehicles saw little down time for maintenance and the costs to operate the units were very low in 2023.

UNIT	2021	2022	2023
2008 Pierce	\$2,263	\$4,948	\$7,833
2013 Pierce	\$3,810	\$8,861	\$29,353
2020 Horton	\$3,937	\$5,729	\$248
2017 Braun	\$4,739	\$10,578	\$680
2020 Ford F450	\$914	\$2,104	\$60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,327</b>	<b>\$40,693</b>	<b>\$39,962</b>

Our fuel usage is tracked by vehicle each year. In the last couple of years, we made some changes to reduce the amount of fuel we use each year. These changes included changing the our deployment strategies to reducing the amount of times the quint or engine responds on certain calls. We have seen a reduction in the amount of fuel spent with the changes we've made. We spent a total of \$27,410 on fuel for all our fire and EMS vehicles.

This chart show how fuel expenditures were distributed across our fleet in 2023.



## 2013 Pierce Impel

### PREVENTATIVE

- Batteries
- Front Brake Pads & Rotors
- Front Brake Hose
- Discharge Gauges x 2
- Air Horn Repair
- Rear Tires
- Rear Wheel
- Discharge Valve Service

### REACTIVE

- Oil Leaks
- Air Leaks
- Coolant Leaks
- Thermostat
- NO2 Sensors x 3
- Oil Pressure Sensor
- Exhaust Leaks
- Turbo Actuator
- ABS Module

### NFPA Inspections

- Vehicle Inspection
- Pump Test
- Annual Service
- Ladder Test

NFPA inspections and annual servicing were completed in the last quarter for the front-line quint and engine with necessary repairs made as a result of the inspection. Vehicle inspections and Annual Service were completed at Atlantic Emergency Solutions in Springboro and ladders by CFS Inspections.

## 2008 Pierce Arrow XT

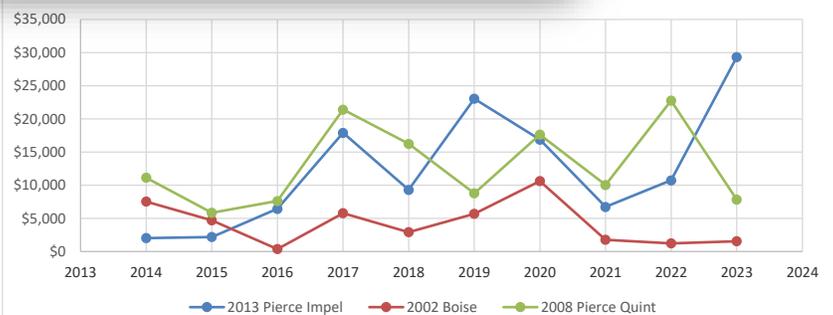
### PREVENTATIVE

- Batteries
- Pump Panel Lighting
- Power Steering Pump Gasket

### REACTIVE

- Exhaust Leaks
- Roll Up Door Replacement
- Coil Cord on Aerial Tip
- Various Discharge Gauges
- Electrical Repairs
- Scene Lighting

## 10 year Maintenance Chart

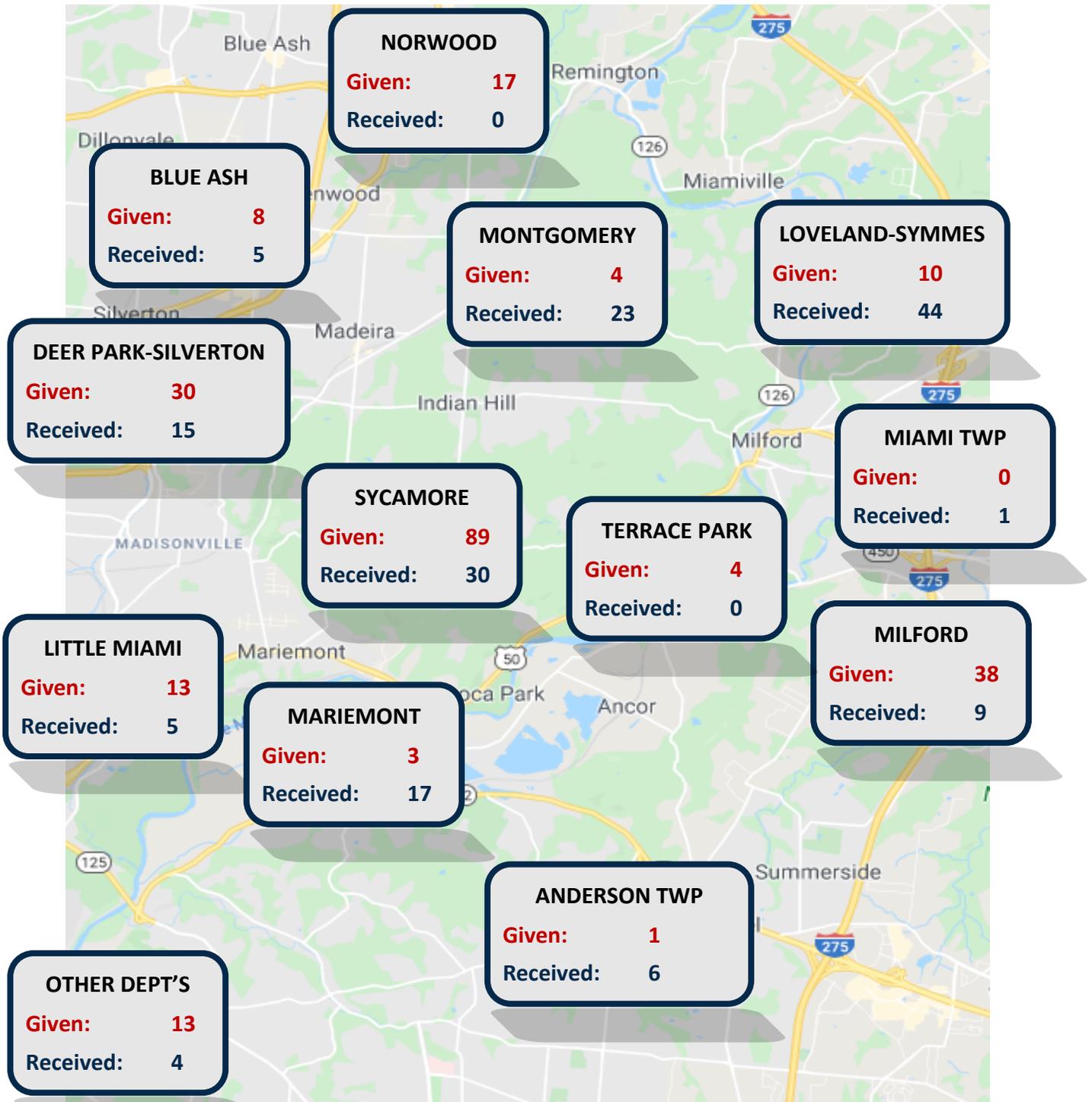


The 10 Year Maintenance Chart highlights the expenditures of our three fire apparatus over the last 10 years. We expect maintenance costs to escalate as the apparatus ages and this data assists in preparing the budget, forecasting future expenditures and helps determine when to replace the fire truck.



# Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid is an important feature of our Fire / EMS service in southwest Ohio. In 2023, we recorded 389 incidents where either mutual aid given or mutual aid was received. We have automatic mutual aid agreements to provide the right amount of equipment, apparatus and personnel to effectively handle larger incidents such as a structure fire. We also utilize and participate in providing chief officers to fill command and supervisory roles during large incidents called the IMAT or Incident Management Assistance Team. The map shows the distribution of mutual aid that was given or received from our neighbors.





# Collaboration

## Hamilton County Fire Chief's Association – East Group

The fire chief continued to actively participate in the H.C.F.C.A. and was re-elected to the Executive Board in 2023. The purpose of the group is to provide an avenue for collaboration to enhance the lives and safety of residents and visitors throughout Hamilton County. There were 41 fire departments represented in the group and each support the regional response plan. The group met once a month at Scarlet Oaks Vocational School in Sharonville.

The East Group is a subsidiary of the H.C.F.C.A. and also meets once a month to improve interoperability and collaboration on a smaller scale tailored to the east region of Hamilton County and bordering departments of Clermont County.

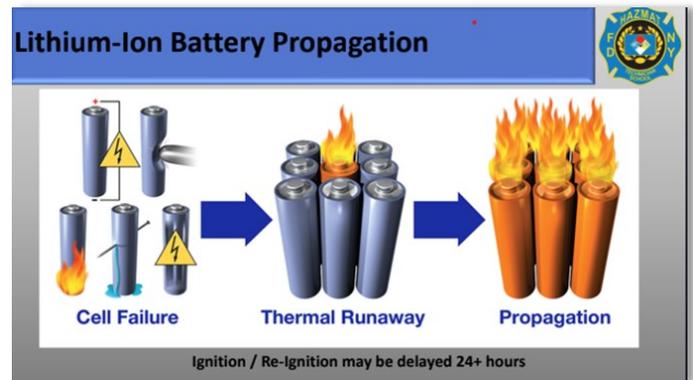
## Lithium Battery Group

MIHJFD, Goshen, Mason and Loveland-Symmes Fire Departments continue to meet to enhance mitigation strategies and tactics for lithium-ion battery fires. Across the nation, fires related to lithium-ion batteries continue to rise at a concerning rate. Not only is the frequency concerning, the rate at which these fires develop is extremely concerning for the fire community. FDNY, NIST and US are

actively providing research to assist fire departments to develop mitigation strategies; however, there is no one solution yet for these fires. We are learning more and more about how and why battery cells fail and what is produced as they fail. Fires are most concerning, but we also must be concerned about what to do after the fire and how we handle investigations and proper disposal techniques. We have policies and procedures in place to fight these fires, overhaul the fire and safe storage after the fire. The group has made purchases for equipment including car fire blankets, drums for storage, and plug devices for use after an electric vehicle crash during rescue.

## Little Miami River Group

The Little Miami River Group is another collaborative effort we participated in again in 2023. We have three firefighters who are actively involved in the technical aspects of the team to include FF / Medics Alex Brahm, Taylor Hester and Alex Stubbs. Chief Oughterson and Captain Caceres also work in leadership positions on the team to help develop safe policies and procedures and manage trainings for the team. In 2023, the group worked on improving communication and dispatch of the right resources and trained quarterly as a team.





# Our Why

## **Our Mission:**

To rapidly deliver a highly trained team prioritizing life and safety

## **Our Vision:**

Constantly improve and innovate fire and life safety services through education, preparation and prevention

## **Our Values:**

Compassion, integrity, service and discipline

## **Our Philosophy:**

Improve quality of life