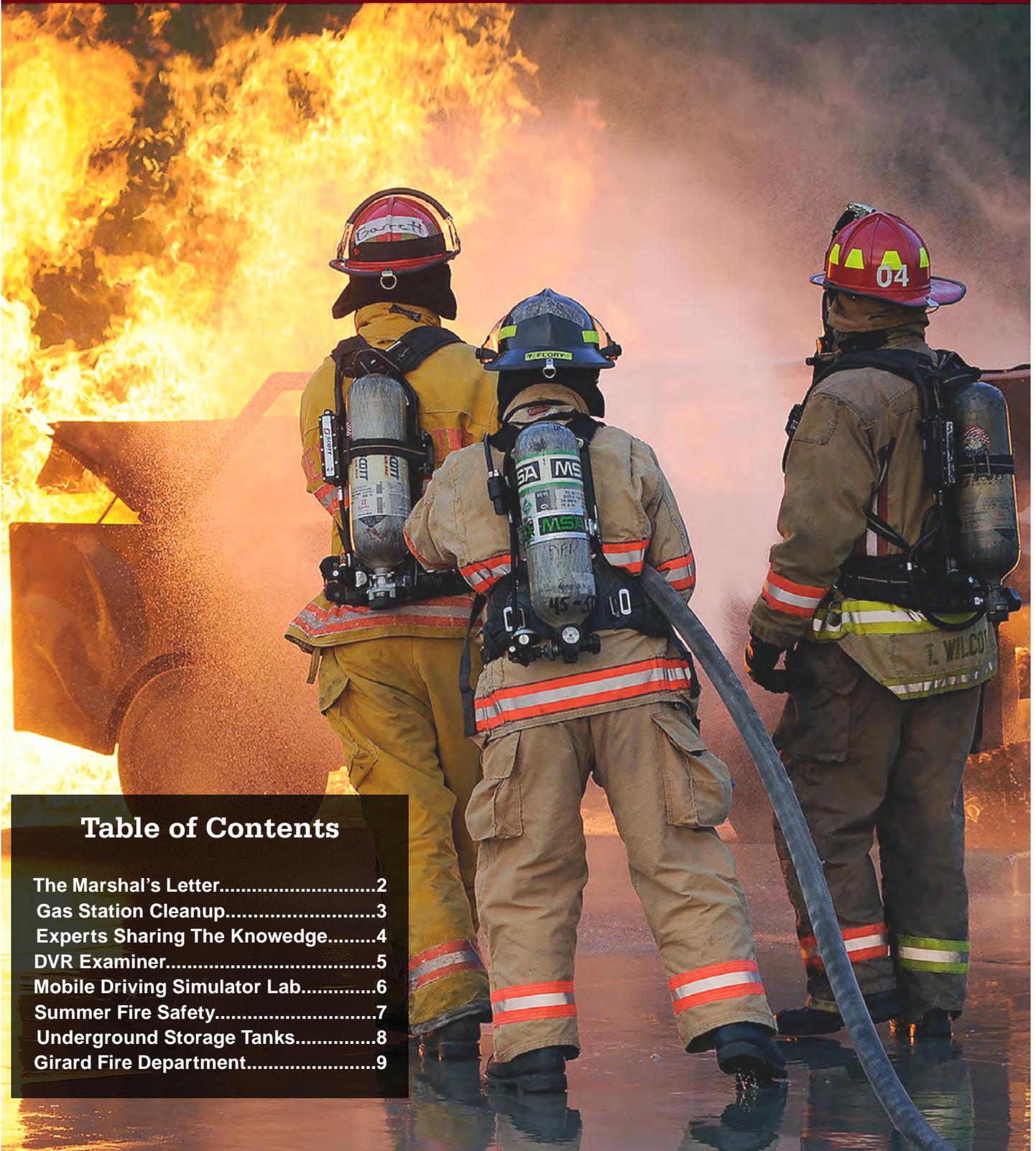




# STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

Summer 2017 • 8895 East Main Street • Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 • Ohio Department of Commerce



## Table of Contents

The Marshal's Letter.....	2
Gas Station Cleanup.....	3
Experts Sharing The Knowledge.....	4
DVR Examiner.....	5
Mobile Driving Simulator Lab.....	6
Summer Fire Safety.....	7
Underground Storage Tanks.....	8
Girard Fire Department.....	9

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## A message from Marshal Hussey

Summer is finally upon us, and here at SFM, we have no plans of slowing down. The past few months have shown incredible advancement in almost every bureau here on campus, which proves just how dedicated each of our employees are.

For starters, we recently hosted our 17th annual Fire Expo & Muster. This event went off without a hitch, and it was a great time seeing folks from all across the state come out to celebrate the fire service with their families. And the weather could not have been more cooperative! This event is one of our favorite to host because it gives us time to mingle with Ohio families – fire service or not. It’s also an opportunity for us to educate about all the things we do here at SFM in an enjoyable way. Hard work and planning from both SFM organizers and from the Central Ohio Antique Apparatus Association made the event possible, and I want to thank everyone involved – especially to the folks who came out to have some fun and say hello!

Just as our team was in the thick of planning for the Fire Expo this year, we received some morale-boosting news from an industry leader in fire service journalism. FireRescue1 magazine named our Ohio Fire Academy the Best Fire Academy in the United States. This recognition can be attributed to the dedicated instructors and leadership team who consistently strive to improve and expand course offerings, not only in content, but in reach – making courses available to every corner of the state. I am incredibly proud of this recognition and, I assure you, we will continue to prove ourselves to this standard.

In other news, our team continues to make progress in the update of the 2017 Ohio Fire Code. Right now, it is open for the comment period after making suggested changes. we are working hard to get this completed and we will continue to update when we reach the next steps in this rule update process.

With all of these accomplishments and updates, I can assure you there will still be more to come. I hope you all enjoy this summer, the sunshine and your families – and stay safe when grilling!

Sincerely,

Jeff A. Hussey, OFE, OFC, CFO  
Interim State Fire Marshal



John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## ABANDONED GAS STATION CLEANUP GRANT PROGRAM

*By Patricia Bulzan*

Old, abandoned gas station sites can not only be an eyesore for a community, but a costly project to clean up and/or remove the underground petroleum tanks.

To help communities with these problem properties, the Ohio Legislature and Governor John R. Kasich created a \$20 million fund that aids communities in cleaning up and repurposing sites of abandoned gas stations.

This program has been effective in helping communities, like Columbus. Three orphan underground storage tanks (UST) were removed from a former gas station in 1993. In 2009, two more UST's were removed by the station owner and contamination was identified. Vapors were found to be traveling into a nearby home. Corrective action work was the responsibility of the station owner.

The owner proved that he was financially unable to continue after the closure assessment. The site, with no viable responsible party, was classified as a "C." A limited liability company purchased the property. Since they are not responsible for the release, the company partnered with the city to receive grant money and remediate the property. Remediation is still in progress.



The program is targeted at helping communities, developers and eligible property owners repurpose "Class C release" sites. This refers to a property where the responsible party is no longer alive or financially able to conduct the work. There are more than 400 Class C properties in Ohio, which shows a tremendous opportunity for revitalization of many properties. This program is a joint effort between the Division of State Fire Marshal's Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR), the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Development Services Agency.

Up to \$100,000 can be awarded for property assessment costs, and up to \$500,000 can be awarded for clean-up and remediation activities. All properties awarded money must conduct activities in accordance with Ohio EPA VAP rules and/or under BUSTR's corrective action rules.

For specific questions regarding the grant program contact April Stevens, Development Services Agency, at (614) 466-4007.

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## EXPERTS SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

*By Vicki Hunsaker*

Investigating the origin and cause of a fire requires not only extensive training and continuing education, but an ambitious skill that becomes instinctive over time. The foundation of the investigative process is primarily science-based and sharing that knowledge with the community and students, who are the future of investigations, is an ongoing endeavor by the Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau (FEIB) team.

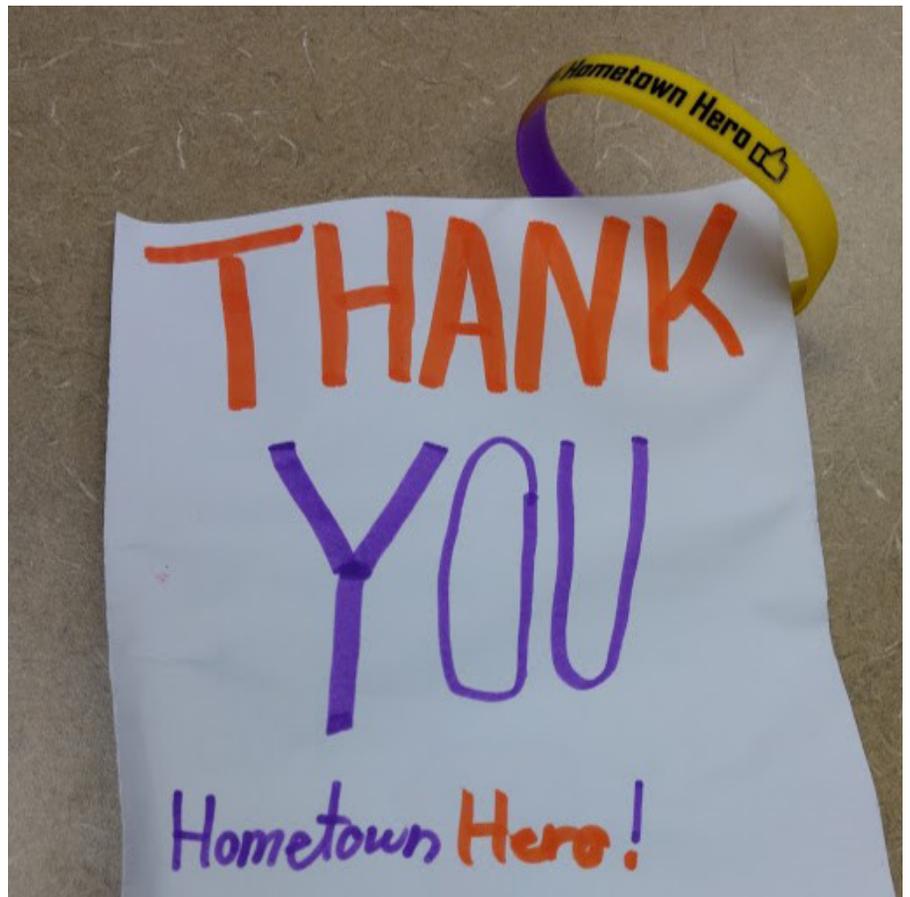
“Science Behind the Investigation” is the focus of many educational efforts. Investigators routinely speak at a variety of public forums held at places like Youngstown State University, Wayne County Career Center, Central Christian High School, Union Scioto Intermediate School, and especially this time of year, to firework exhibitors such as Kings Island.

Schools welcome presentations on Career Day, in high school government classes, college forensic classes, and specifically for the Science Cooperative of Physicians and Elementary Students (SCOPE) program. Investigators also present an eight-hour class at the Ohio Peace Officers Training, which encompasses law enforcement fire investigators. Judges and Prosecutors seminars are also offered that benefit the legal profession.

Through all these ventures, there is an immense opportunity to educate on the depth of forensic evidence, what investigators look for, burn and fire patterns, scientific methods, origin and cause, determining criminal responsibility and firework update/safety.

“FEIB brings a lot to the table,” Investigator Brian Peterman, who has been with SFM for thirty years, said. “We are both fire investigators and crime investigators. A police department may not be equipped to pursue a local arson because their squad is busy with cases involving drugs, sex crimes, and domestic violence.”

For anyone interested in the investigation process, or even becoming an investigator, Peterman advises to initially get both police officer and fire department training. “Work up through the ranks,” is his advice.



*Each student from Union Scioto created a thank you card for FEIB and gave a Hometown Hero bracelet to our staff.*

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## DVR Examiner: A Game Changing Tool in Fire Investigations

By Brad Barkhurst

*FM's Digital Forensic Laboratory recently acquired a DVR Examiner, a new software tool. It's the first of its kind, and is a breakthrough in the digital video forensics community because it saves video from Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) digital video recorder (DVR) hard drives.*

### How does this relate to fire investigations?

If a fire occurred in the proximity of a DVR, there could be video of the fire that may show who or what caused it. DVRs are often damaged in a fire due to soot, water and the control buttons being melted away. Previously, in order to recover the video from a damaged DVR, a DVR of the same make and model would have to house and power the damaged DVR's hard drive. This was time consuming, expensive, and many times, not feasible.

With a DVR Examiner, a working copy of the DVR hard drive can be produced and video can be saved from the copy in its original format as well as a video format that can be played with Windows Media Player. The scope of time that needs to be saved from the DVR, as well as camera numbers, can be

selected using the DVR Examiner software. Once the video has been saved, the DVR Examiner produces a report stating which cameras and times have been saved as well as easy access to the saved files.

### DVR Examiners save time and money.

The DVR Examiner also saves fire departments both time and money. Previously, if investigators needed to save multiple days of video from a DVR for evidence, they would have to remain on-site until all the needed video had been saved from the recorder. This was a time-consuming process and a financial burden. With this new tool, days, weeks and months of video can be saved from DVR hard drives much faster. This also builds better relations with the community since home and store owners who volunteer their DVR to investigators can get it back much faster. A major update to the DVR Examiner will soon be released. SFM digital forensics lab examiners plan to implement this update once it is released, and will be able to provide more details in the near future.



*Pictured is an example of a working DVR compared with a DVR that has been in a fire.*

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## Mobile Driving Simulator Lab Available for Local Training

The state-of-the-art Mobile Driving Simulation Lab is now at the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA), and the Academy staff is training and completing curriculum development. The Lab will be available to Ohio fire departments in late July 2017 through Direct Delivery.

**Course Description:** The Mobile Driving Simulation Lab is a training resource that is integrated into a driver skills and judgement training curriculum. It provides a bridge between classroom-delivered instruction and actual operation of an emergency response vehicle on a prepared course or public roadway. A driver can experience the consequences of making decisions based upon incomplete information. Drivers can practice making decisions in simulated life and death situations similar to those actually encountered on the road that would be too dangerous to perform in the real world.

**Course Fee:** \$500 per 4-hour session with a maximum of 8 students per session; maximum 2 sessions per day. This course is eligible for the State Fire Marshal Reimbursement Grant.

For additional information please contact Dan Swords, Fire Training Supervisor, at [dswords@com.ohio.gov](mailto:dswords@com.ohio.gov) or 614-752-7160.



John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## FIRE SAFETY FOR SUMMER

Summer is a great time for family fun and outdoor activities. Don't let these opportunities become tragedy. Think safety all the time so you and your family can enjoy the entire season!

Here are some tips to help you plan:

### GRILLING

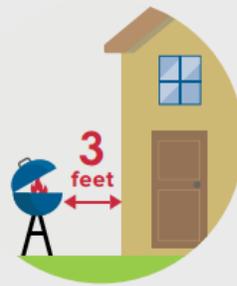
*Make safe outdoor cooking a priority.*

- Move the grill away from siding, decking, and other things that can catch fire.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill when it's hot.
- Stay with the grill the entire time you're cooking.
- Keep your grill clean so leftover grease and fat won't catch on fire.



**Warning: Fireworks are dangerous to people and pets. Using them puts your property at risk.**

The best way to stay safe from fireworks is to not use them. Instead, attend a public fireworks display put on by professionals.



**Summer months mean grilling! Make sure your home is protected.**

Keep grills 3 feet away from your house and anything that can burn.



Fire is Everyone's Fight™

These tips are courtesy of the United States Fire Administration. Learn more at [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov). Remember, Fire is Everyone's Fight™.

### BACKYARD FIRE PITS

*Permanent and portable fire pits bring fire danger to your home.*

- Make sure the fire pit is at least three feet away from your house and anything that can burn.
- Closely watch children when the fire pit is in use.
  - Use a metal screen over wood-burning fires to keep sparks from floating out.
- Turn off or put out fires before you leave the backyard.
  - Store matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach.



## License Renewals

### Annual registration for underground storage tanks and fire protection licenses

**Underground Storage Tanks** annual registration were due June 30th, however it's not too late to renew online! **RENEW here.**

**Fire Protection Licenses** issued by the State Fire Marshal's office are available to be renewed online! **Click here** to renew or verify active licenses.

All company licenses expire on July 1 annually. Individual licenses expire quarterly by last name:

A-G Jan 2 expiration

H-M April 1 expiration

N-S July 1 expiration

T-Z Oct. 1 expiration

Past due renewals will be charges a 10% late fee.

Email the Testing & Registration Bureau with questions.



## Fire Expo & Muster: Recap

The 17th annual Fire Expo & Muster went off without a hitch. We could not have asked for better weather for the day and the turnout was great! Attendees were able to enjoy seeing antique fire trucks, seeing our newest Accelerant Detection Canine be sworn in and even sit back and watch a game of old-time "base ball." We thank everyone who came out and are already looking forward to next year's Muster!



John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



## Fire Department Highlight

# The City of Girard Fire Department

*Chief: Kenneth Bornemiss*



**STAFFING MAKEUP:** 3 captains and 9 full-time firefighter/paramedics. The department operates three 24-hour turns, led by a captain and staffed with 3 firefighter/paramedics. All employees are trained to the level of Firefighter Level II and Paramedic. Many of our firefighters have also attained certification as fire safety inspectors, arson investigators, hazardous materials technicians, rescue divers and CPR instructors.

**NUMBER OF STATIONS:** The Girard Fire Department operates out of a single centrally located station.

**APPARATUS:** One 100 ft. Aerial Platform Truck, Rescue Truck, SUV Medic Unit, Chase Vehicle, Rescue Boat and two Fire Engines.

**AREA COVERED:** The Girard Fire Department covers 6.4 square miles. The department is responsible for protecting 9,500 residents among more than 4,300 households and 300 commercial and public structures. That

includes three schools, eight churches, and four parks. The department is first-due to two state routes, a U.S. route, and one of the busiest sections of highway in the country, Interstate-80. Other infrastructure includes more than two miles of short rail line and four miles of CSX rail line. The department also covers 4 miles of the Mahoning River and its several miles of tributaries.

**SERVICES OFFERED:** We primarily provide fire, rescue, and ALS First Responder services. Additionally, the department features a fire safety inspection program. We also conduct numerous public education programs as well as CPR and first aid training.

### ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT:

**1870s:** Organized fire protection began in Girard as 'bucket brigades.' After a series of large industrial and commercial fires, the town purchased a hand engine for \$760 in 1878.

**1880s:** By the mid-1880s, Girard organized its first volunteer fire department, and before the end of the nineteenth century, it had established stringent fire prevention codes that prohibited wooden roofs and the use of fireworks.

**1900s:** In 1915, the department moved into a more modern fire station, located at the site of the present fire station at East Liberty Street and

Stewart Avenue. That year, Girard also bought the department its first motorized fire truck, replacing the horse-drawn apparatus of the past.

**1920s:** While it continued to maintain a strong volunteer base, in 1922, the department hired its first paid full-time firemen, supplemented by part-time specials.

**1950s:** On August 5, 1955, the full-time firefighters joined the International Association of Fire Fighters, becoming Local #1220. Nine years later, remodeling began on the old fire station, which included a new four-bay addition and a new living quarters, added in 1967.



*Continued on page 10*

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



# STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

• Summer 2017 •



## Continued from page 9

In November that year, the department began operating the city's first ambulance service.

**1990s:** By the mid-1990s, the department had begun paramedic services.

**2000s:** A city-wide fiscal emergency forced the elimination of the paramedic ambulance service in 2003, however, along with the elimination of thirteen part-time and four full-time positions.

In 2012, the city emerged from fiscal emergency, though the ambulance service and staffing have not returned. In 2013, the department received a \$900,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant allowed for the purchase of a 100-foot aerial platform truck, replacing the previous platform truck that served continuously for thirty-six years.

**Today:** The Girard Fire Department has adapted to doing more with less, responding to more than 1200 calls

per year with an average response time between three and five minutes.

Along with protecting and serving the residents of Girard, Girard Firefighters Local #1220, the local union affiliate of the International Association of Firefighters is a proud community partner. In addition to its 'fill-the-boot' affiliation with local hospitals and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the union has collaborated with local schools, businesses, and civic organizations to fund various programs targeting disadvantaged



John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal



# STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

• Summer 2017 •



# Ohio

## Department of Commerce



Like us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/OhioFireAcademy](https://facebook.com/OhioFireAcademy)



Follow us on Twitter!  
[@OhioFire](https://twitter.com/OhioFire)  
[@OhioFireAcademy](https://twitter.com/OhioFireAcademy)



The Ohio Department of Commerce  
Division of State Fire Marshal  
8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

614-752-8200  
888-252-0803 Toll-Free  
800-750-0750 TTY/TDD

[websfm@com.state.oh.us](mailto:websfm@com.state.oh.us)  
[www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire)

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams  
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey  
State Fire Marshal