

WASHINGTON TWP. / AVON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Dan Smith
Fire Chief

Gerald George
Assistant Fire Chief

John Shafer
Fire Training Division Chief

Ted Allen
EMS Division Chief

Levi Carpenter
Fire Marshal

Karen Hendershot
Public Education

Carolyn Thacker
EMS Billing Coordinator

Chris Krahn
Support Services

Fire Chief's August Report 2017

Run Totals:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Monthly:	425	428	482
YTD:	2,361	2,789	3,271

Public Education:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Monthly:	22	14	18
YTD Events:	139	153	171
Contacts YTD:	6859	7511	9418

EMS Division:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Monthly*:	272.50	277	280
YTD*	2,001.25	2,278.25	2,508.25

EMS Revenue:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Monthly:	57,867.15	67,539.46	70,822.60
YTD:	431,424.66	498,964.12	569,786.72

Fire Training Div.:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Monthly*:	551.5	1595	1092.5
YTD*	5,664.5	7,259.50	8,352

Prevention/ Investigation Division:

	Jun	Jul	Aug
Service Calls:	38	46	41
Fire Inv.	1	6	2

* Training measured in man hours

Fire Chief 's Report

August 2017

This month, I thought that I would update you on some of the background work that you may not know of otherwise.

As you know, our part time inspector left us recently to take a full-time position at the White River Township Fire Department. We have hired Jim Hieston II to replace Braden, and Jim has hit the ground running. He has completed his training with Levi and has started doing inspections independently. He has also assisted with several fire investigations already. We will be utilizing Jim as an additional fire investigator when he is available. As you also know, we started the on-call fire investigator position to assist Levi and I on evening and weekends when we are not available. We have begun to utilize personnel in that position and I believe that we have used the on-call position two or three times not. Last month, we had 6 of our personnel attend the Indiana Arson Conference in Indy. As you may also know, we had an apartment fire two weeks ago that affected 4 residents. The cause of that fire was attributed to discarded smoking materials that were left in plant containers. During our training at the conference, we were actually witness to a test burn where this type of fire was simulated, and it took less than 30 minutes for the cigarette to ignite potting materials and the container. In response to the fact that we have witnessed 3 such fires in our area in the past 3 years, Levi and Karen are going to be creating a public service announcement for us to post on our website, and hopefully in local press, to show the dangers of these situations.

Our new firefighter, Michael Berg, will be graduating from the Plainfield Recruit School next week and will be assigned to shift after his graduation. With Michael's placement, we still have two openings that we will need to fill for personnel that have left our employment. Our county wide firefighter hiring process begins this month, and ends in October. Chief Allen is also working on a paramedic hiring process, as we move toward starting a civilian paramedic program, were we will hire strictly paramedic personnel to man our ambulances. These personnel will be hired to fill the two current openings we have, as well as the three new personnel that will hopefully be approved for next year. The civilian paramedic program will take several years to complete, but will be staffed through new hires and hiring of replacement personnel. Tomorrow evening, I will be attending a Family Night as part of the recruit school, where new hires in the Plainfield program will have the chance to show off their newly acquired skills to friends and family before their graduation.

As I mentioned in last month's chief report, we are in the process of evaluating our reserve apparatus. The quint that we purchase last year from Streamwood Fire Department has required quite a bit of work, and we are evaluating if we would be better off to sell that truck and entertain the option of acquiring a different reserve truck. Danville Fire Department currently has a spare engine that they just replaced with a new engine, that we may be interested in purchasing. We are in talks with Danville at the current time, and they are having some evaluations done on the truck before selling it. I will be approaching the board in the next month or so to talk about the direction that we would like to take.

In closing this month, I wanted to recognize Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Preston. In our training programing, Chief Shafer has solicited the assistance of shift personnel to help further the goals of the training division. One of the areas that he has requested assistance for, is in the area of HazMat training. Previously, we had a shift person who assisted John, but that person has left our employment. Steve has volunteered to step into that position and help to guide our HazMat training. Coming up with trainings that are effective at teaching the desired skills needed, as well as keeping the interest of personnel is somewhat, to say the least, challenging. Steve has risen to the task and is doing a great job of providing effective training sessions. Not only is finding good training challenging, but the position that Steve fills if often one that goes without much encouragement or thanks. So I wanted to say "thanks" to Steve for his willingness and hard work.